

Forestry Proceedings

PNWER Annual Summit- Calgary, AB

July 18, 2016

Co-Chairs:

- Sen. Chas Vincent, Montana State Legislature
- Travis Joseph, President, American Forest Resource Council

Speakers:

- James Hubbard, US Forest Service, Deputy Chief of State and Private Forestry
 - Diane Nicholls, Chief Forester, British Columbia
 - Ambassador David Wilkins, Partner at Nelson Riley & Scarborough LLP, former U.S. Ambassador to Canada
 - Hon. Rob Merrifield, Senior Counsel, Canadian Strategy Group
 - Peter Lister
 - Robyn King, Executive Director, Yaak Valley Forest Council
 - Lindsay Warness, Forest Policy Liaison, Boise Cascade Company
 - Ethan Martin, Regional Director, Design & Construction Services, WoodWorks
-

Discussion Topics

Solutions to forest fire funding

James Hubbard, US Forest Service, Deputy Chief of State and Private Forestry

James Hubbard gave an overview of the spending on forest fires in the west. The western US continues to set records for size and cost of fires as well as the number of acres burned in the west. These problems have only gotten worse and the US Forest Service has spent \$1.7 billion on fires and this number increases each year. The method of financing with an increasing suppression budget means that the funding is coming out of other budgets that are working towards prevention. This is an unsustainable method of spending. There are six different official proposals that are all in play in order to deal with this spending issue, yet there are differences in opinions that have been inhibiting the passing the proposals. The fuel reduction line item was an exception because it approached the states and asked what they specifically do in an attempt to work across boundaries. Working across boundaries and engaging the community to get everyone to agree is not easy, but it does happen.

Diane Nicholls, Chief Forester, British Columbia

Diane Nicholls spoke for the BC Wildfire Service and explained that a solution to forest fire funding is to stop focusing on suppression costs and to look more at mitigation and prevention. There are many issues engrained in forest fires, including human health concerns, economic losses, transportation issues, and the cost of fighting the fires. British Columbia Wildfire Service have limited but effective resources, including TEAMS (Temporary Emergency Assignment Management Systems), Initial Attack Crews, Unit Crews and Contract Fire Crews. Suppression activities must be coupled with strong

prevention and mitigation programs. Future solutions include engaging community members and first community members, as well as the using programs such as FireStart and focusing on the 3 E's of prevention: engineering, education and enforcement. In addition to suppression measures, the Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy actions include: enhance horizontal collaboration and integration, enhance prevention and mitigation capability, increase investment in innovation, enhance commitment to FireSmart, increase preparedness capacity. See attached presentation for more details

[Presentation](#)

Softwood Lumber Agreement

Ambassador David Wilkins, Partner at Nelson Riley & Scarborough LLP, former U.S. Ambassador to Canada

David Wilkins presented on his experience with the Softwood Lumber Agreement. When Wilkins visited Canada around 2005, softwood lumber was at an all time high and everyone he met with was upset and wanted to know why the US wasn't holding up their end of the deal. Wilkins had meetings with George W. Bush and emphasized the importance of figuring out a solution in order to improve relations with Canada. After his meeting with Bush, the Softwood Lumber Agreement was signed. As of now, from what Wilkin's has been told, there is not an overwhelming interest with the US to reach an agreement, and the compromise has to be on the side of Canada. Canada is looking for a hard border with the US and in the one year extension of the cap that was put on the agreement, Canada has tried to coordinate but the interest just simply isn't a priority for the US. There are differences between 2005 and now in the state of affairs for the Softwood Lumber Agreement, and the chances of an agreement being reached seems bleak, but Wilkins is not giving up.

Hon. Rob Merrifield, Senior counsel, Canadian Strategy Group

Hon. Rob Merrifield discussed the difficulties of passing the agreement. Merrifield stressed that it is unrealistic to demand immediate change with Congressmen because they are focused on passing certain laws and agreements that will help them get re-elected. The Canadians got the best deal that they could have gotten for the situation and the only way to get this agreement done is to get the President and the Prime Minister speaking about it. With 1 in every 5 jobs being directly related to the government in Canada, it is imperative that agreements are being passed. In the US, the people supporting the Softwood Lumber Agreement has gone up while in Canada it has gone down. The current political situation is not promising for an agreement getting passed soon and the uncertainty of the future US President complicates the situation even more.

Best practices to market products using beetle-kill timber

Peter Lister

Peter Lister outlined 10 things we have learned from the Mountain Pine Beetle. See attached presentation.

[Presentation](#)

Diane Nicholls, Chief Forester, British Columbia

Diane Nicholls overviewed British Columbia's experience with the mountain pine beetle. Nicholls compared the impact across different areas of British Columbia, emphasizing the impacts in Central

British Columbia. There has been a significant impact on timber supply from the mountain pine beetle, and while MPB-kill timber is under control, there are beetles attacking other tree species that have the same potential destruction of the MPB. See attached presentation for more details.

[Presentation](#)

Advancing collaborative forest management initiatives

Diane Nicholls, Chief Forester, British Columbia

Diane Nicholls reviewed the many aspects that go into collaborative forest management. Nicholls explained all of the resources and considerations that go into compiling data on what parts of the forest to cut down. A discussion paper was put together considering the economic, social and environmental issues compiled from data and information from a variety of groups. They consulted with the public, stakeholders, and First Nations people. Nicholls expressed the importance of engaging the First Nations because the public land is their land base. The key to collaboration is consultation and communication. See attached presentation for more details.

[Presentation](#)

Robyn King, Executive Director, Yaak Valley Forest Council

Robyn King emphasized the importance of successful partnerships with private sector foresters and the US Forest Service. The Yaak Valley Forest Council has an interest in sound forest management as well as economic viability. It is important to create a set of guidelines internally that will give the YVFC a unified voice. In support of conservationism, the civil cultural guidelines supported the ASQ and showed that modeling was effective and that their realistic approach was successful in the long run. Ongoing challenges include continuing to be transparent and inclusive and continuing to reach out and figuring out how to inspire collaboration. It is important to inspire those in charge of policy, reach out to those that are not a part of the conversation, to engage timber partners and support congressional action that will empower local collaboratives.

Lindsay Warness, Forest Policy Liaison, Boise Cascade Company

Lindsay Warness presented on collaboration facilitators and implementation. Warness expressed many reasons why collaboration is necessary and the many obstructions that stand in the way of collaboration. In Oregon, the goal is to decrease the diameter of where wood is being drawn from and to bring back the conversation and business to the local mills. Many people are losing their jobs due to mills being shut down and the certainty that the judges are giving the people about their jobs are not resistant to natural forces such as beetles or fires. It is important to engage and be respectful of those that are taking their own personal time to work on collaboration because most people do not get paid and in fact are most likely losing money by taking time to work on collaboration. To see more details on collaboration, see attached presentation.

[Presentation](#)

Mass Timber- Advancing manufactured wood products in the region

Peter Lister

Peter Lister explained the changing landscape of the building industry and the role that wood is currently playing, as well as how wood can continue to stay relevant. Wood should be focused on in building because it is the only renewable building material. Architects and consumers are increasingly looking at green credentials and energy costs and wood building systems are changing. For more details explaining the cost and environmental implications of mass timber, see attached presentation.

[Presentation](#)

Ethan Martin, Regional Director, Design & Construction Services, WoodWorks

Ethan Martin seeks to educate architects, engineers and policy makers on Cross Laminated Timber (CLT). As technology keeps changing and innovation and design come into play with construction, the 2 year delay on business codes are inhibiting progress. This inhibits how tall CLT buildings can be, currently with a limit of 5 stories. There is an incredible amount of demand for CLT buildings and the building codes need to be adapted to fit the demand. WoodWorks has co-hosted or hosted every conference having to do with CLT and wants to provide access to information on CLT. They have done design contests and are in the works of doing research to support the safety and efficiency of CLT. WoodWorks sat down and created a statewide amendment in Oregon in order to enact the more up to date building codes. Moving forward, the Timber Innovation Act needs to be supported to fund the research being done on CLT in taller buildings, and there needs to be support of the demand side, such as WoodWorks. For more information, please see attached presentation.

[Presentation](#)

Questions and Discussion

Travis Joseph to Rob Merrifield and David Wilkins: “With your experience, what can an organization like PNWR that is operating on the outside do to be most effective if we want to bring an issue to Congress? The members of Congress know that there are issues, but how do we push it?”

Rob Merrifield: Don’t go to a politician with a problem, go to them with a solution. Build a consensus because if you don’t, it’s not going anywhere. Politics is about moving from idea to implementation. There are also huge implications with personality. I will admit that I voted for moderate legislation because it was against Bush. You have to work with personality, and work with the representatives, even if you want to work around them a little bit.

David Wilkins: I always say that the most important lobbyist was a person that I know, that lives in my district, that I respect and that I know has voted. You have to know which strings to pull and know how to develop the strength. Keep in mind that a good idea that is pushed by someone that no-one likes won’t go as far as a bad idea by a good person.

Bob Turner question to Ethan Martin and Peter Lister : Alberta has been through the worst firestorm in our history just 5 years after what was the worst firestorm. We are protective of the first responders. We are all for increasing the demand for wood products, but do we need to put in other codes such as sprinkler codes or separation of buildings in order to make it safer?

Ethan Martin: The NFPA sprinkler system is in place and there has been 0 fatalities in a wood frame building. The misconception is that the wood is unsafe. But when CLT lights, they char and eventually designate instead of steel buckling and melting, and cement exploding. So wood is the most safe building product.

Peter Lister: It is right for people to be concerned about safety, there's a lot of misinformation out there. There is a lot of testing that has to be passed and larger buildings will need different sprinkler requirements. The beauty of this is that it is like trying to light a camp fire with no kindling. From a policy perspective, these products are the steps in the right direction.

Action Items	Project Lead	Status
1	Write letter to senate and house supporting the innovations act. Travis Joseph Sen. Chas Vincent	In progress
2	Empower collaborative in a manner in which they have outcome based solutions and insulate them in the process to incentivize participation. Travis Joseph Sen. Chas Vincent	In progress
3	Write a bulleted, one page Issue paper on proactive solutions. Mark Stayton	In progress
4	Discuss with the executive committee that its really important to focus on the real solutions, instead of bringing up ideas. 	In progress