



Media Release

BOOSTING CANADA'S INNOVATIVE POLICIES AND PRACTICES IN SUPPORT OF OUR FORESTS, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE LIVELIHOOD OF FOREST-DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Edmonton, April 25, 2007 — The Sustainable Forest Management Network announced today an investment of \$3 million over the next two years to advance innovative practices in support for our forests, the environment and the livelihood of forest-dependent communities across Canada. The investment will support state of knowledge projects of 16 researchers in 10 Canadian universities.

“The Sustainable Forest Management Network's researchers, and their industry, government, and non-government partners, are developing innovative policies and practices to sustain the values forests provide society, in a landscape affected by many industries including forestry, oil and gas, hydro, mining, tourism, and agriculture,” stated SFM Network Board Chair, Fraser Dunn.

“This year,” says Scientific Director Professor Jim Fyles, “our investments are about consolidating our understanding of some very critical issues concerning Canada’s future forest sustainability”. Researchers will synthesize the states of knowledge, thinking and debate on key issues noted below. Researchers will also be responsible for documenting policy and implementation in each of their respective areas, and will make recommendations for future research, management and policy. The new research projects build on past research and address emerging needs identified by the Network’s partners. The research funds allocated to each project are noted in the attached backgrounder.

Impacts from the new projects will include:

- New ways of taking stock and placing value on our forest resources and environmental assets,
- Comprehensive assessment of the implications of climate change for water resources from Canadian forests,
- Better understanding and solutions to the vulnerability of forests and forestry to climate change,
- Understanding the implications of the changing composition of Canada’s mixedwood forests,
- Approaches to effective collaboration between Aboriginal groups and the forest industry,
- Ways to combine the economic and conservation goals of Canada’s boreal regions,

Examples of the projects supported are given in the attached backgrounder. In addition to the Government of Canada’s support, academic, industry and non-governmental partners contribute

about \$6 million in cash and in-kind every year to the Sustainable Forest Management Network's activities.

The Sustainable Forest Management Network facilitates collaborative applied research among 31, industry, government, Aboriginal, and non-governmental partners in supporting the work of more than 190 researchers.

The complete list of projects supported by the Sustainable Forest Management Network is posted at www.sfmnetwork.ca

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For further information, please contact:

Dr. Jim Fyles,
Scientific Director
Sustainable Forest Management Network
Professor and Tomlinson Chair in Forest
Ecology
Department of Natural Resource Sciences
McGill University
Tel: (514) 398-7758
E-Mail: jim.fyles@sfmnetwork.ca



Backgrounder

The grants are listed from East to West:

Dr. Yolanda Wiersma, Memorial University of Newfoundland will receive \$120,000 in research funding to lead a team that will produce a state of knowledge report on the role that protected areas can play in sustainable forest management.

Dr. Stephen Wyatt, Université de Moncton, campus d'Edmundston will receive \$194,500 in research funding to lead a team that will produce two state of knowledge reports reviewing research and experience concerning collaboration between Aboriginal groups and the forest industry in Canada.

Dr. Steve Cumming, Université Laval will receive \$120,000 in research funding to extend and improve computer modeling tools to more accurately assess tradeoffs associated with the conservation of wildlife in Quebec and parts of Ontario and Labrador.

Dr. Alison Munson, Université Laval will receive \$110,000 in research funding to lead a team that will provide a synthesis of knowledge on the vulnerability of the Canadian forest sector to climate change.

Dan Kneeshaw, Université du Québec à Montréal will receive \$265,000 in research funding to better understand how three major forest insect pests (mountain pine beetle, forest tent caterpillar, and spruce budworm) affect forest management across great expanses of the country and through time.

Dr. Christian Messier, Université du Québec à Montréal will receive \$215,000 in research funding to develop a new way to approach managing Canada's vast forest resources. This approach will enable timber companies to maximize yields near lumber and paper mills while leaving larger tracts of land untouched.

Dr. Osvaldo Valeria, Université du Québec en Abitibi-Temiscamingue will receive \$220,000 in research funding to assess the implementation of an ecosystem-based forest management system for western Quebec involving ecological, Aboriginal, and economic criteria and indicators.

Dr. Shashi Kant, University of Toronto will receive \$160,000 in research funding to explore a new valuation method of Aboriginal land use activities that is consistent with Aboriginal culture and Aboriginal rights.

Dr. Irena Creed, University of Western Ontario will receive \$120,000 in research funding to lead a team that will generate a synthesis of knowledge and expert opinion about the relationships between various forest land uses and downstream water yield and water quality within the context of climate change.

Dr. Iain Davidson-Hunt, University of Manitoba, will receive \$177,000 in research funding to lead a research project to develop new ways and approaches to include Aboriginal people in the process of land use management. This project emerges within the context of the Northern Boreal Initiative, an Ontario government effort to address land use planning in the northern part of the province.

Dr. Vic Adamowicz, University of Alberta will receive \$120,000 in research funding to lead a team that will synthesize the published and unpublished literature on approaches expressing the value of forest environmental assets and services to improve natural resource management and the sustainability of Canada's forests.

Dr. Vic Adamowicz, University of Alberta will also receive a total of \$260,000 in research funding to identify the tradeoffs and evaluate the cost effectiveness of various alternative caribou management options in western Canada.

Dr. Ellen Macdonald, University of Alberta will receive \$120,000 in research funding to lead a team that will address the state of knowledge concerning changes in composition of mixedwood forests from the point of view of biodiversity, forest productivity and ecosystem function.

Dr. Phil Comeau, University of Alberta will receive a total of \$175,833 in research funding to refine our ability to predict the composition and structure of future forests.

Dr. Bruce Larson, University of British Columbia will receive \$196,500 in research funding to assess the impacts of forest certification standards on forest management across Canada.

Dr. Paul McFarlane, University of British Columbia will receive \$241,400 in research funding to investigate the effects of innovation in the forest products value chain on sustainable forest management.

Dr. Robert Moore, University of British Columbia will receive \$190,000 in research funding to investigate the effects of large forest disturbances such as the mountain pine beetle epidemic and the movement of water on and through the landscape.

These projects are supported by:

Provincial Governments

Alberta, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, Québec, Yukon.

Federal Departments

Natural Resources Canada – Canadian Forest Service, Environment Canada.

Industries

Abitibi Consolidated Inc., Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc., Bowater Inc., Canadian Forest Products Ltd., Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd., J.D. Irving Ltd., Little Red River Forestry Ltd., Louisiana-Pacific Canada Ltd., Tembec Inc., Tolko Industries Ltd., Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd.

Aboriginal and Non-governmental Organizations

Abitibiwinni First Nation, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Kamloops Indian Band, Lake Abitibi Model Forest, Moose Cree First Nation, National Aboriginal Forestry Association, Pikangikum First Nation, Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta.

