

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF  
PROGRESS  
THROUGH  
INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION

1962 - 1997

By  
James Sorenson

Revised in 1997 by  
Bill Baden - NFPA  
Al Jeffrey - CIFFC



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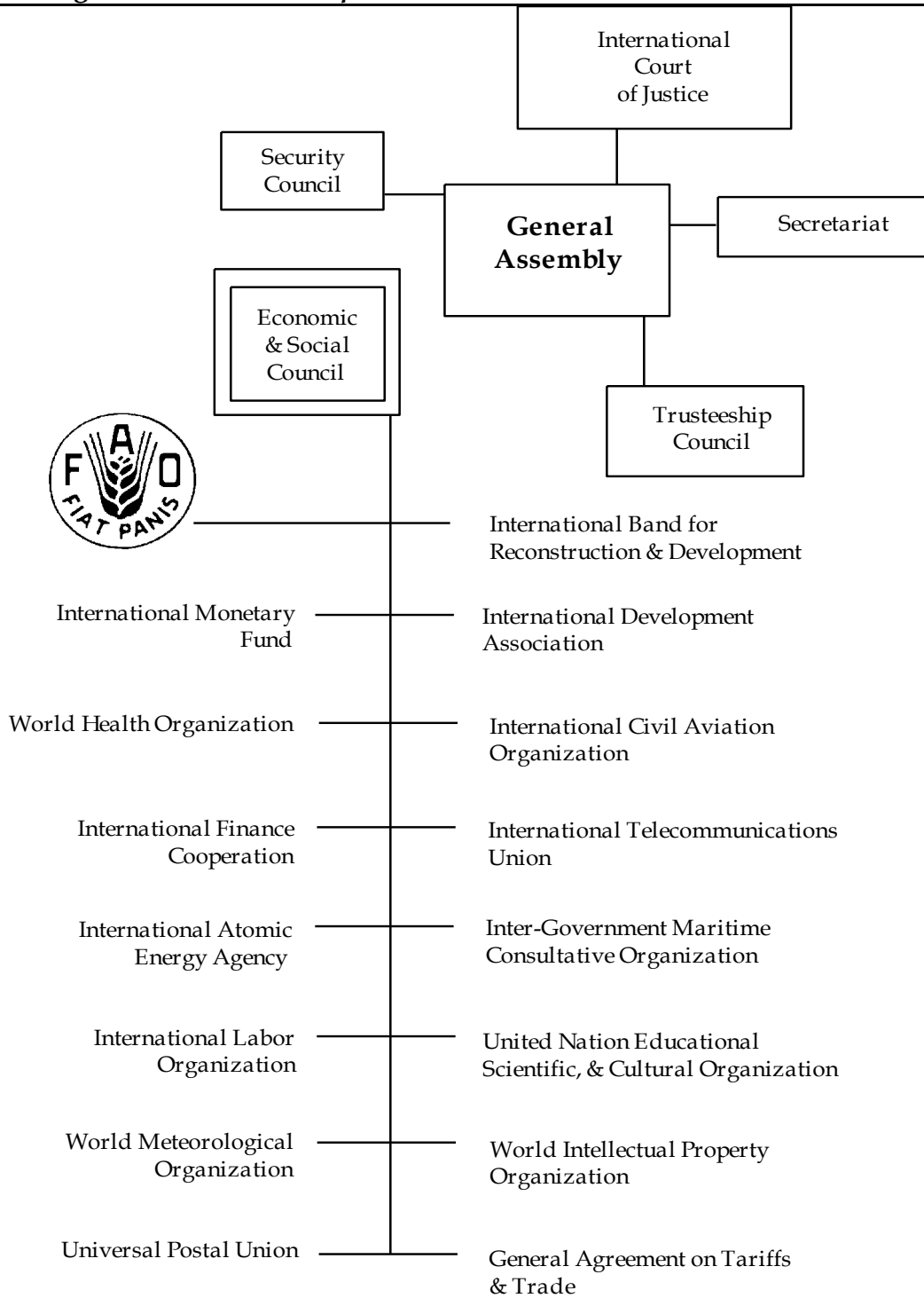
This publication was prepared by the National Fire Protection Association in cooperation with the North American Forestry Commission. Written by James Sorenson and revised by Bill Baden and Allan Jeffrey. It describes the first thirty-five years of the Commission's Fire Management

Study Group.

The Fire Management Study Group (FMSG) of the North American Forestry Commission has been operating since 1962. During that time the Group has met thirty times and managed many significant accomplishments. The FMSG is a somewhat informal organization: Over the years its meeting reports have taken different forms and received varying distribution. Membership in the FMSG has changed considerably over the last 35 years: files have been purged and lost. The end result of all this is that there is no single source of information where FMSG members, or interested people outside the Group, can learn of the important accomplishments of this international committee.

This publication attempts to pull all of the available, pertinent information together into one, easily accessed source document. It covers all of the significant events that occurred during the years between 1962 and 1997.

In order to understand the role of the Fire Management Study Group, it is necessary to see where it fits in its parent organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization.



**Figure One ! Food and Agriculture Organization=s Position in the United Nations**  
**Food and Agriculture Organization**

In May of 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt hosted a conference on Food and Agriculture in Hot Springs, Virginia. Forty-four nations were represented, and laid the groundwork for the establishment of FAO. In October of 1945, forty-two nations met in Québec, Canada, and signed the organization's constitution, becoming the original members. By 1971, membership in FAO had grown to 125 independent nations.

FAO is an autonomous, independent organization within the United Nations' family of sixteen specialized agencies. It has its own governing body, constitution budget, membership and program of work. Its purpose is to help member nations increase and improve output from farms, forests and fisheries, raising levels of nutrition and standards of living.

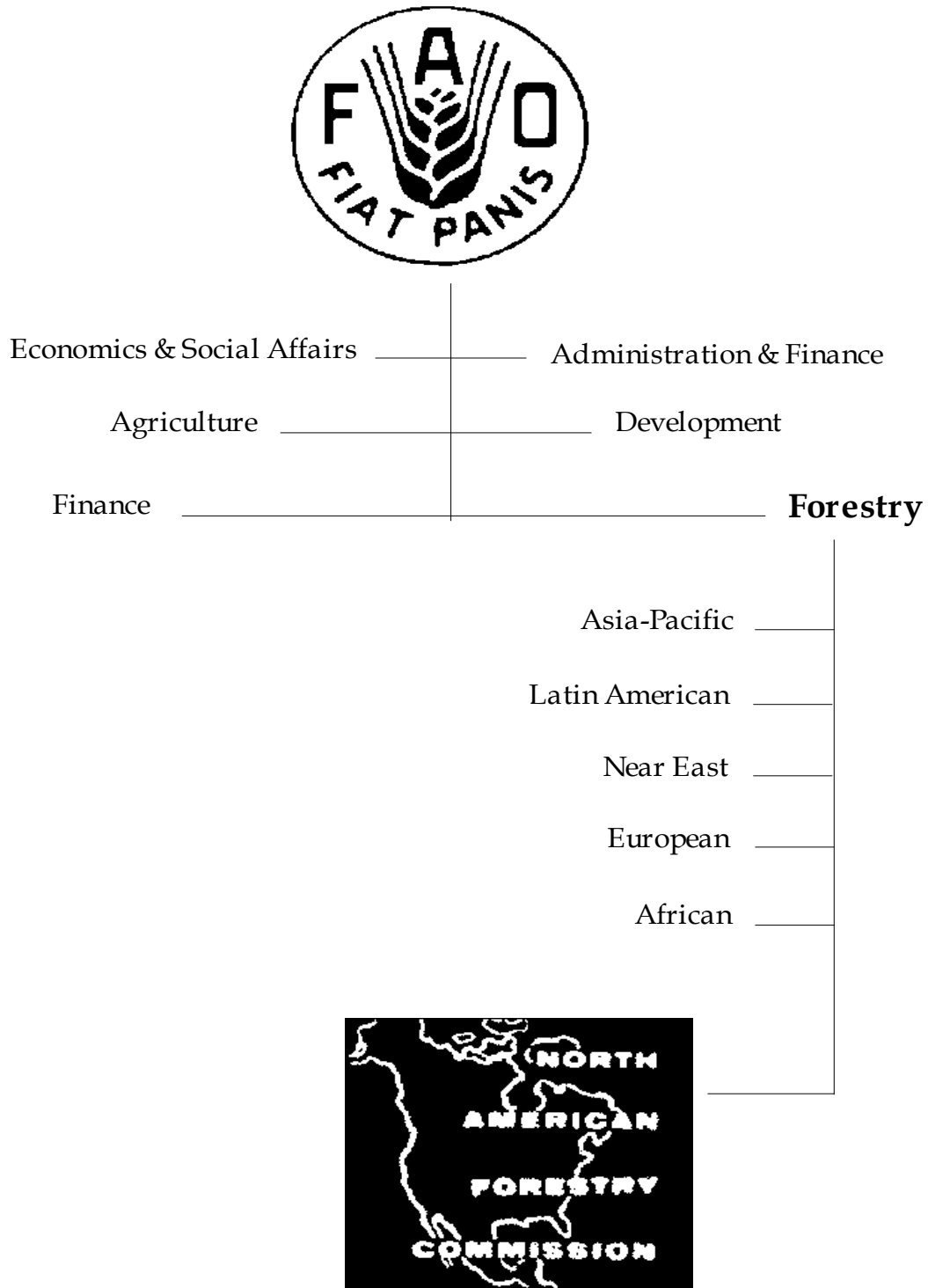
Figure 1 shows where FAO fits in the framework of the United Nations. FAO and other specialized agencies are established by intergovernmental agreement, and relate to the entire UN organization through the Economic and Social Council.

Within FAO are six departments, one of which is Forestry. The Forestry Department is further divided into six Regional Commissions - one each for Asia-Pacific, Europe, Africa, and the Near East.

### **North American Forestry Commission**

In 1960, meeting at Rome for its Ninth Session, the FAO established the North American Forestry Commission. The purpose of NAFC is to advise on the formulation of forest policy and to review and coordinate its implementation on the regional plane; to exchange information; and to recommend appropriate solutions to technical problems.

Figure 2 illustrates NAFC's position within FAO and its relation to the other Departments.



**Figure Two ! North American Forestry Commission=s Position in Food and Agriculture Organization**

The NAFC held its first session in Mexico City in July of 1961. At this

meeting rules and procedures were formulated and adopted. Voting membership consists of one representative from each country: Mexico, Canada and the United States.

Primary officers are chairman, 1<sup>st</sup> vice chairman, and 2<sup>nd</sup> vice chairman. These offices are assumed in turn by each of the members on a two-year rotating basis. The Commission meets every two years, and is hosted by the Chairman.

Originally, the elected reporter administered the business of the Commission in the interim between sessions; however at the Fourth Session of NAFC a Committee of Alternates (COA) was authorized. This Committee consists of one representative from each country, and meets at least once between regular NAFC meetings to review progress of working groups and help ensure the continuity of work.

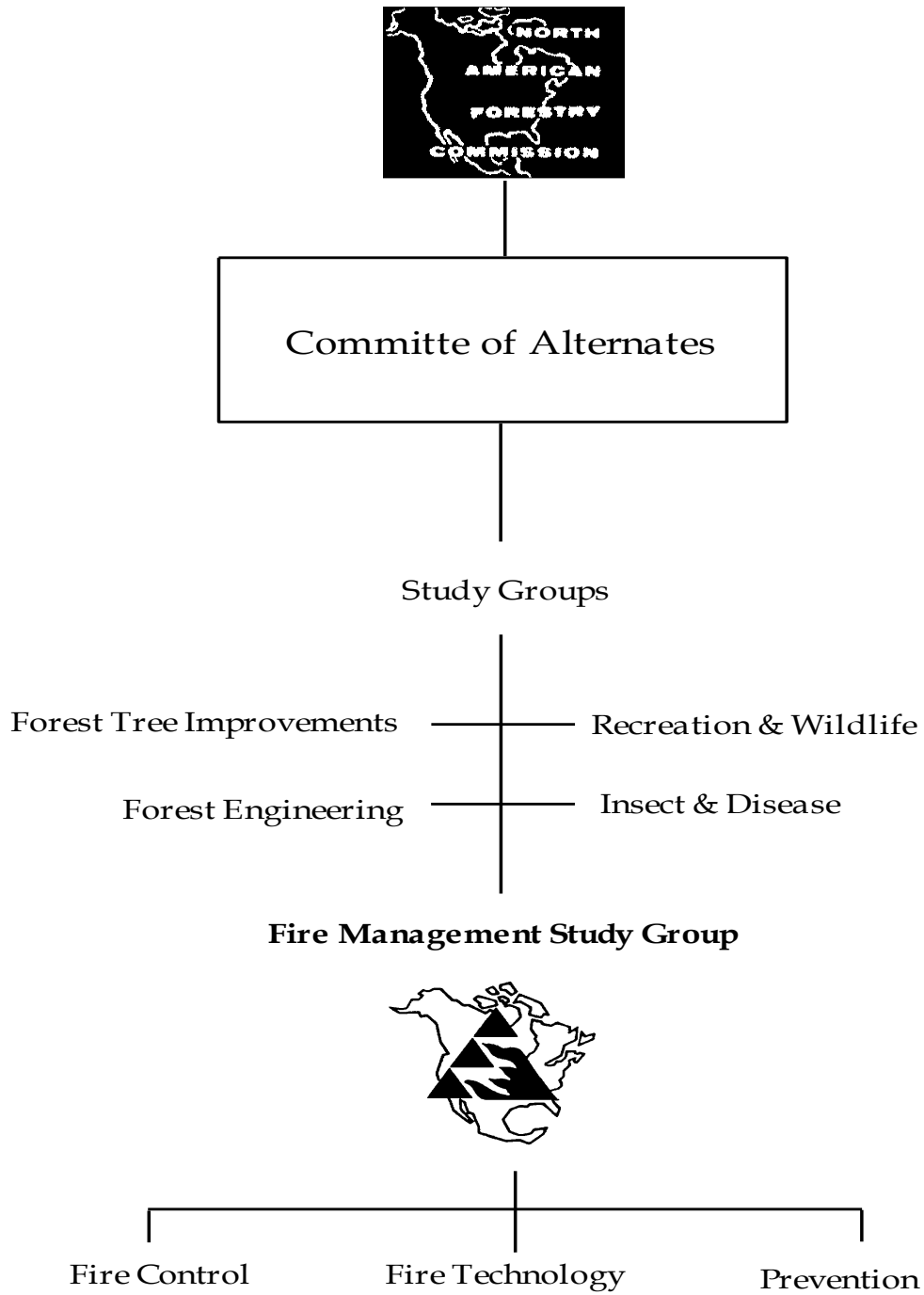
The NAFC functions through a system of five Study Groups. One of which is the Fire Management Study Group.

### **Fire Management Study Group**

One of the first orders of business when the North American Forestry Commission held its inaugural meeting in Mexico City was the formulation of five working parties: Recreation and Wildlife, Insect and Disease, Forest Tree Improvement, Forest Engineering, and Forest Fire Control. In 1971 the name of the Forest Fire Control Working Party was changed to its present form: Fire Management Study Group.

The main objective of FMSG is to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information and to promote mutual assistance among the three participating countries in matters relating to forest fires.

Forest fire control activities are managed differently in each of the three nations, so membership is not specified according to the job title of participants. Membership can be adequately described as coming from the leadership of the forest fire control communities within each nation.



**Figure Three ! Fire Management Study Group=s Position in North American Forestry Commission**

FMSG functions through three sub-committees: Prevention, Control, and Technology (formerly called research.) Each subcommittee convenes at the annual meeting of the study group to discuss new developments that affect the forest fire community. At these subcommittee sessions, members decided on actions needed to correct some problems and recommend them to the General Session of the Study Group for consideration. They also report on progress of past activities and prepare the FMSG report to the North American Forestry Commission.

### **Logo of the Fire Management Study Group**

At its Ninth Meeting, in Jasper, Alberta, on September 13, 1974, the Fire Management Study Group accepted a logo designed by Rudolph Wendelin, of the USDA Forest Service. The design was also accepted by the North American Forestry Commission, and its first use was on certificates given on the 1975 Fire Control Study Tour.



The logo is red and green on white. Superimposed over a red outline of the North American continent is an abstract red, green, and white equilateral triangle, whose left sides form the sides of the main triangle. These three green triangles are abstractions of trees which, in turn, represent the forest fire control communities of the three member nations, Canada, United States, and Mexico. Red flames extend from the lower right hand angle of the main triangle, with tips of the flames pointing toward the three trees.

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## **Significant Accomplishments**

### **! Forest Fire News**

In April of 1966, a 3 1/4-page report was distributed under the title Forest Fire Equipment News. Nine short articles briefly discussed new developments in the fire control area, five of them dealing with aircraft use. By October of 1967 the magazine had grown to eight pages and contained twenty-nine articles. Its name had also changed to its present Forest Fire News.

This publication has evolved into a fine magazine with between 20 and 40 pages of illustrated articles of interest to members of the forest fire community. Articles are solicited from readers in the member nations of FMSG and English translation are printed next to Spanish contributions.

Forest Fire News has proven to be one of the finest projects that the Fire Management Study Group has developed, and its continued publication will be evidence that FMSG is performing one of its principle functions - providing for the exchange of ideas and information.

Until 1985, Forest Fire News was published and distributed by the USDA Forest Service; since then responsibility for the magazine has resided with the Canadian Forestry Service.

### **! Sponsorship of Tours**

The first tour sponsored three fire study tours. These tours were designed to give participants a better understanding of fire problem in other countries, as well as the methods used to solve these problems.

The first tour sponsored by FMSG was in 1968, with participants travelling through Canada and the United States for approximately 2 months. Twenty-seven persons, representing twenty-three countries, made that tour, in addition to those from the host countries.

**NEW PHOTO**

**NEW PHOTO + WRITEUP  
of  
(L.A. Amicarella - USA)**

**NEW PHOTO + WRITE UP  
of  
(Oscar Cedeño Sanchez - MEX)**

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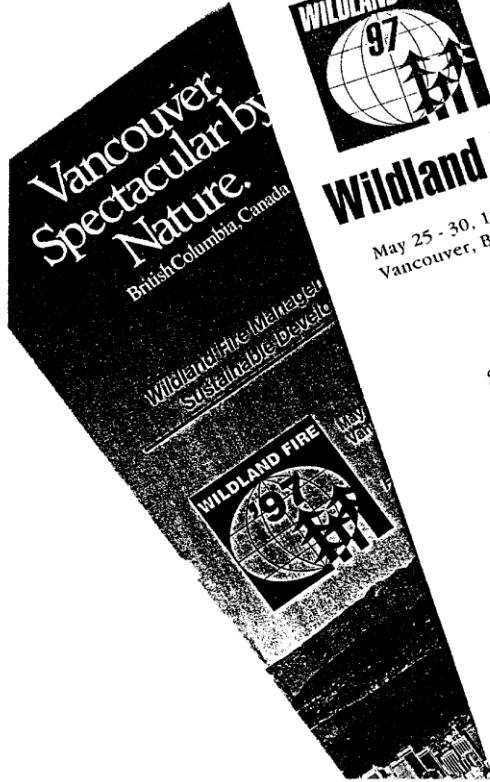


# Forest Fire News

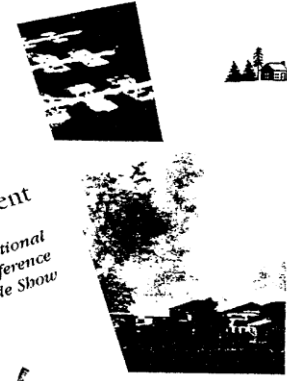
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 and  
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# Forest Fire News



Second Announcement  
 An Invitation to an International  
 Wildland Fire Conference  
 and World-Class Trade Show



In February and March of 1975, the FMSG sponsored a tour of Mexico and the United States. Forty participants from twenty-seven countries made that tour. Another tour in January and February 1980, covering Prescribed Fire in the U.S., involved about 2 dozen specialists from 10 countries.

Current plans of FMSG include continued sponsorship of future tours.

! **Dealing with Wildland/Urban Fire Problem**

Members of FMSG cooperated with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to sponsor a 4-day conference. A Meeting Global Wildland Fire Challenges,≡ held in Boston in July 1989. Under the sponsorship of the FMSG a 2nd International Wildland Fire Conference A Wildland Fire Management and Sustainable Development≡ will be held in Vancouver, BC in May of 1997. The conference will focus on the social, economic and environmental impacts of wildland fire throughout the world.

! **Fire Fighter Certificate**

A Certificate, honoring fallen fire-fighters, or acknowledging exemplary action, has been prepared for presentation. Recipients in each member country will receive a certificate worded in their own language, signed by delegates of all three countries.

! **Member Countries**

States and provinces of the member countries have participated in FMSG activities and projects in a very substantial way, providing active membership and serving as hosts for meetings.

! **Glossary of Fire Terms for Mexico**

One of the most serious difficulties hindering the operation of an international group is language. This is especially serious in technical groups, because often terms do not convey the same idea after being simply translated from one language to another. For this reason, it was recognized early in the existence of FMSG that a glossary on forest fire control terms and definitions suitable to the three member countries was needed.

It was discovered that an English/French glossary already existed in Canada, so there was an immediate need only for an English/Spanish version. In 1978, the glossary was printed with 228 entries under 7 major headings: General, Fuels, Forecasting, Prevention, Detection, Suppression and Fire Effects.

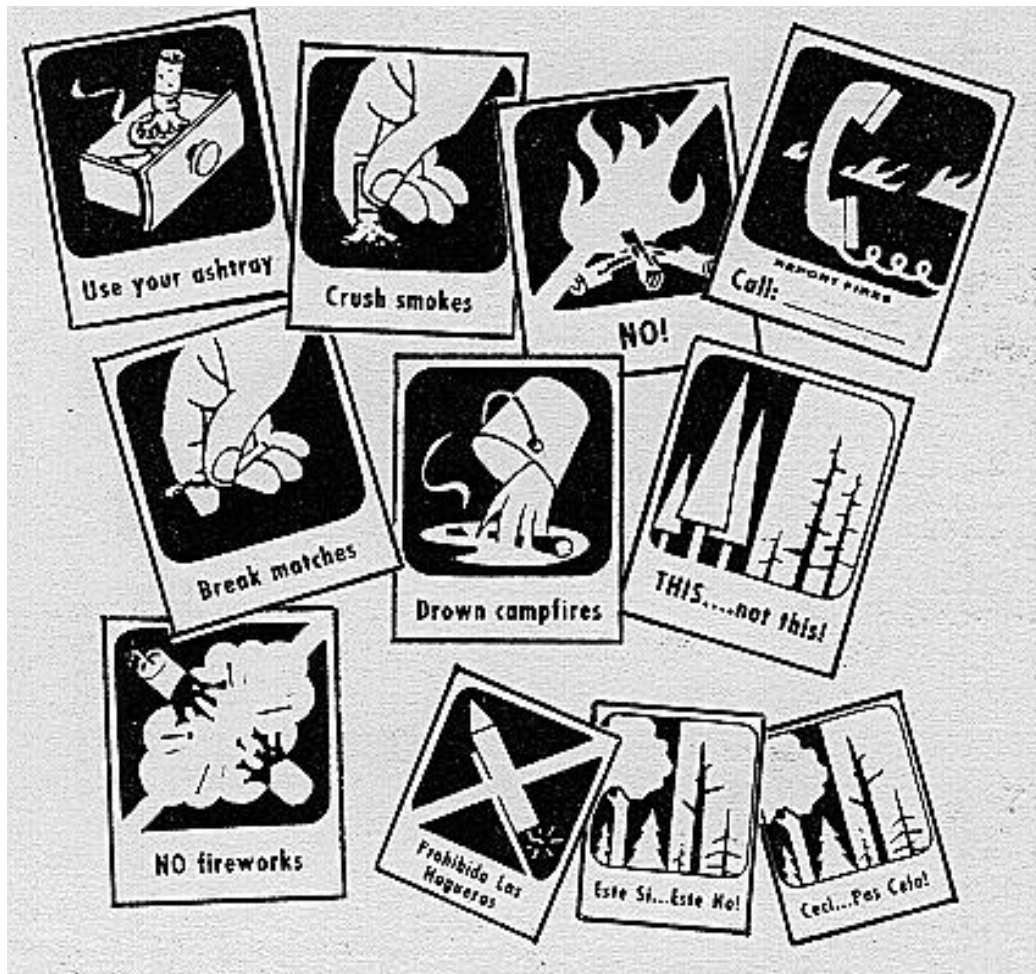
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### **Listing of Other Accomplishments**

During the 35 years of its existence, the Fire Management Study Group has promoted many projects that have helped solve the forest fire problems in North America. One of the most important, and possibly the least recognized, is the act of assembling, at regular intervals, the fire control leadership of the three member nations. The informal exchange of ideas is probably at least as important as the information presented in the formal agenda.

The following list illustrated some of the most significant accomplishments of FMSG. Some of these accomplishments are ongoing, or start up, wind down, and start up again. For this reason, the list is not strictly chronological.

- ! Eight international fire prevention sign symbol were tried and accepted in each country.
- ! Canada and the United States are carrying on joint activities in development of remote sensing methods for detection and mapping of lightning strikes along their common Border.
- ! Joint Northeast Forest Fire Compact, USDA Forest Service and Province of Quebec agreement on evaluation of CL-215 airplane. Preparedness checklist was distributed to committee members at Ottawa in 1965.
- ! A news sheet on equipment was printed and distributed.
- ! Mutual Assistance Agreement between the United States and Mexico was signed May 3, 1968.



**Eight International Fire Prevention Symbols**

## **North American Forestry Commission Fire Management Study Group Awards**

### **The Distinguished Service Award (DIS)**

This is the pre-eminent award of the North American Forestry Commission Fire Management Study Group, given for outstanding effort by an individual toward furthering international efforts in forest fire management. The awards nomination are judged by an Award Committee appointed by the North American Forestry Commission Fire Management Study Group. This committee is composed of one member each from Mexico, United States, and Canada

#### **! Purpose of the Award**

To recognize persons who have made an outstanding and/or long term contribution to international forest fire management that has resulted or should result in facilitating significant progress towards completion of major forest fire management initiatives of international significance.

### **Superior International Award or Exemplary Service Award**

This award recognizes the fire management efforts of an individual or an organization for superior or exemplary accomplishments in support of national or international fire management, or significant advances directly implementing objectives of the NAFC FMSG.

#### **! Purpose of the Award**

To recognizes superior (or exemplary) fire management achievements by individuals or organizations in the area of training, research, policy, prevention, education, or equipment development.

### **NAFC Fire Management Study Group Merit Award**

The efforts of individuals or organizations can do much to increase the ability of fire fighting organizations to effectively implement their programs. The NAFC FMSG Merit award will recognize the efforts of those individuals or organizations who have made an outstanding contribution of time and work to achieving specific fire management goals consistent with the objectives of the NAFC FMSG Fire Management Study Group.

#### **! Purpose of the Award**

To recognize outstanding forest fire management initiatives which support the goals of the NAFC FMSG.

**Meetings of the**

**North American Forestry Commission**

**LIST TO BE REVISED**

Sessions/Dates			Locations	Chairman
1	24-29 Jul	61	Mexico, DF	V.L. Harper (USA)
2	17-22 Jun	63	Ottawa, Ont.	L.Z. Rosseau (CAN)
3	18-22 Oct.	65	Washington, DC	E.P. Cliff (USA)
4	2-7 Oct.	67	Mexico, DF	L.N. Palomares (MEX)
5	15-20 Sept.	69	Ottawa, Ont.	A.H.W. Needler (CAN)
6	27-31 Mar.	72	Washington, DC	E.P. Cliff (USA)
7	4-8 Feb.	74	Mexico, DF	J.V. Soto (MEX)
8	23-27 Feb.	76	Ottawa, Ont.	R.J. Bouchier (CAN)
9	12-17 Feb.	78	San Juan, PR	J.R. McGuire (USA)
10	18-22 Feb.	80	Patzcuaro, MEX.	C. Cardenas (MEX)
11	16-19 Feb.	82	Victoria, B.C.	F.L.C. Reed (CAN)
12	21-24 Feb.	84	El Paso, TEX	R.M. Peterson (USA)
13	3-7 Feb.	86	Chetumal, MEX	L.J. Castanos (MEX)
14	12-16 Oct.	87	Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.	Dale Robertson (USA)



**NEW PHOTO**

## Meetings of the Fire Management Study Group

Sessions/Dates			Locations	Chairman
1	10-11 Oct.	62	Washington, DC	G.M. Jemison (USA)
2	4-5 Nov.	63	Mexico, DF	G.M. Jemison (USA)
3	10-14 May	65	Ottawa, Ont.	R.K. Arnold (USA)
4	18-21 Apr.	67	Riverside, CA	J.S. Barrows (USA)
5	4-7 Nov.	68	Chihuahua, Chi.	R.G. Garcia (MEX)
6	22-26 May	70	Toronto, Ont.	J.C. MacLeod (CAN)
7	7-10 Apr.	71	Tucson, AZ	M.E. Lowden (USA)
8	19-22 Jun.	73	Guadalajara, Jal.	J. Carrillo (MEX)
9	10-18 Sep.	74	Jasper, Alta	D.E. Williams (CAN)
10	15-18 Mar.	76	San Diego, CA	W.R. Tikkala (USA)
11	22-24 Mar.	77	Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chi.	G. Borja (MEX)
12	6-8 Sep.	78	Québec City, Que.	D.E. Williams (CAN)
13	7-9 Nov.	79	Orlando, FL	W.R. Tikkala (USA)
14	20-24 Oct.	80	Oaxaca, Oax.	Reyes Borilla (MEX)
15	13-15 Oct.	81	Ottawa, Ont.	D.E. Williams (CAN)
16	5-7 Oct.	82	Portland, OR	L.A. Amicarella (USA)
17	5-9 Dec.	83	Valle de Bravo, Mex.	J.B. Cardena (MEX)
18	9-11 Oct.	84	Victoria, B.C.	B.J. Stocks (CAN)
19	21-24 Oct.	85	Orlando, FL	L.A. Amicarella (USA)
20	21-22 Oct.	86	Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chi.	J.B. Cardena (MEX)
21	6-8 Oct.	87	Thunder Bay, Ont.	B.J. Stocks (CAN)
22	1-3 Nov.	88	Lake Tahoe, CA	L.A. Amicarella (USA)
23	9-13 Oct.	89	Cancun, Mex.	J.B. Cardena (MEX)
24	24-27 Sep.	90	Kananaskis, Alta	Dennis Dubé (CAN)
25	24-26 Sep.	91	San Bernadino, CA	L.A. Amicarella (USA)
26	21-25 Sep.	92	Manzanillo, Mex.	Ocsar Cedeño Sanchez (MEX)
27	20-24 Sep.	93	Charlottetown, P.E.I.	Al Simard (CAN)
28	19-22 Sep.	94	Portland, OR	Mary Jo Lavin (USA)
29	16-20 Sep.	95	Merida, Mex.	Oscar Cedeño Sanchez (MEX)
30	16-20 Sep.	96	Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.	

			 Al Simard (CAN)
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