



2015 Annual Meeting

November 16th – 17th Denver, Colorado

Meeting Summary

During the 11th annual Continental Forest Dialogue meeting, a diverse group of approximately 46 representatives from state and federal agencies; private business and industry; academia; and non-governmental organizations gathered at the Sheraton Denver Downtown for a meeting of the Continental Dialogue on Non-Native Forest Insects and Diseases (the Dialogue). This meeting was held in conjunction with the Arbor Day Foundation's Partners in Community Forestry Conference, which took place just after the Dialogue. Attendees of the Dialogue meeting were highly encouraged to participate in the additional Arbor Day Foundation field trips and meetings on November 18th and 19th.

The Dialogue's eleventh annual meeting was planned and convened by the Dialogue Steering Committee, a cross-section of stakeholders with an interest in protecting forests from the threat of non-native insects and diseases. Presentations and meeting materials (including the meeting agenda and speaker bios) are available on the Dialogue's website for this [event](#).

Meeting Objectives

The purpose of this meeting was to advance collaboration around actions to address the threat of non- native forest insects and diseases. Specific objectives included:

- Cultivate collaborations toward action to address the threat of non-native forest insects and diseases;
- Expand the effectiveness and reach of public and private entities and citizens in the battle against the non-native insects and diseases killing their trees; and
- Identify and seek consensus on needed actions for major initiatives the Continental Dialogue will advance in the upcoming year.

Welcome and Introductions

John Stapleton, Forest Health Protection Program Coda Fellow and Legacy Club Donor Relations Manager at The Nature Conservancy, and Dan Lambe, President of the Arbor Day Foundation and member of the Dialogue's Steering Committee, welcomed the participants to the meeting on behalf of the Dialogue's Steering Committee.

John and Dan briefly reviewed the materials provided to meeting participants and then provided an overview of the objectives and agenda, meeting ground rules, and the vision and goals. Meeting participants then introduced themselves. The full list of participants is available at the end of this summary.

Troy Timmons, Deputy Director of Operations and Strategic Planning at the Western Governors' Association, delivered the keynote presentation.

After the keynote, Dan West, a Colorado State Forest Service Entomologist, provided a welcome and update on forest health protection in Colorado. Dan's presentation focusing on major disturbance agents in native forests within Colorado can be found [here](#).

Next, Bill Toomey, Forest Health Protection Program Director at The Nature Conservancy, provided an overview of the Continental Dialogue and an update on the progress of the initiatives over the last year. Review Bill's presentation [here](#). In addition, Monica Lear, Forest Health Protection Direction at the United States Forest Service (USFS), provided USFS Forest Health Protection Program Updates. This brief dual presentation was facilitated by John Stapleton.

Presentations: Emerging Regional and National Issues in Tree and Forest Health

The group then heard from three different speakers on emerging issues in tree and forest health. Speaker bios are available [here](#).

- [Perspectives from the US Conference of Mayors and Emerald Ash Borer on Denver's Doorstep](#) – Scott Gilmore, Executive Deputy Director of Parks and Planning and Rob Davis, Denver City Forester
- [Current and Future Forest Health Concerns](#) – Stacy Scott, National Operations Manager, Pest Management Programs, USDA APHIS
- [Healthy Trees, Healthy Cities App](#) – Chuck Barger Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health – Dr. Rich Hallett, USFS NYC Urban Field Station

Presentations: Lightning Round Updates

The group then heard from five different speakers in a lightning round. Lightning rounds are often

employed at conferences to provide participants with short little, often related, updates from a group of organizations and presenters. Below are the topics, presenters, and their organizations. The lightning round updates and the question and answer session were facilitated by John Stapleton.

- [Recent Research and Developments with Thousand Cankers Disease](#) – Jane Stewart, Colorado State University
- [Positioning Invasive Species Management for Greatly Increased Funding in the Next Farm Bill](#) – Scott Cameron, Reduce Risks from Invasive Species Coalition
- [Industry Partnership in Pest Prevention: Systems Approach to Nursery Certification \(SANC\)](#) – Craig Regelbrugge, Vice President Government Relations, AmericanHort
- [National Plant Board Update](#) – Piera Siegert, National Plant Board Representative and New Hampshire State Entomologist
- National Association of State Foresters Forest Health Update – Robert Simpson, NASF Representative and CEO of GreenWoodGlobal Consulting

Presentations: Panel #1 Western US

Next, the group heard from several speakers representing and sharing a Western US perspective, and providing opportunities for engagement. Speaker bios are available [here](#). Panel #1 presentations and the question and answer sessions were facilitated by John Stapleton.

- [Targeting and Monitoring Programs at Western and Interior Ports](#) – Kevin Harriger, US Customs and Border Protection
- Invasive Forest Pests from the Intermountain West Perspective – Amy Gannon, Forest Pest Management Program Manager for the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
- [City of Boulder: EAB, TCD, Drippy Blight, and EPIC](#) – Kathleen Alexander, City Forester for Boulder, CO
- [Colorado's EAB response and biocontrol release updates](#) – John Kaltenbach, Biological Control Specialist, Colorado Department of Agriculture

Activities: After 5:00pm

After a busy day one of the Dialogue conference, participants headed to Tower Court C for a poster session, discussion, and conversation.

Day One Reflection

Day two began with a short reflection by participants of day one facilitated by John Stapleton. The discussion also included what participants hoped to accomplish in day two.

Presentations: Panel #2 Overview and Update of Dialogue Initiatives and Actions

The first content sessions of the day centered on an overview and update of Dialogue initiatives and actions. The presentations ended with a discussion and question and answer facilitated by John Stapleton. The presentations and presenters are listed below. Speaker bios are available [here](#).

- [Firewood Outreach Perspectives](#) – Leigh Greenwood, Forest Health Protection Program, The Nature Conservancy
- [Healthy Trees, Healthy Cities Initiative](#) – Rachel Holmes, Forest Health Protection Program, The Nature Conservancy

Presentations: Panel #3 Firewood Research and Policy

After a short break, participants entered the third set of panel presentations, this time focusing on firewood research and policy. Again, the presentations ended with a discussion and question and answer facilitated by John Stapleton. The presentations and presenters are listed below. Speaker bios are available [here](#).

- [Results of Analysis of Recreation Databases](#) – Frank Koch, Research Ecologist, USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station
- [Changing the movement of firewood by campers](#) – Leigh Greenwood, Forest Health Protection Program, The Nature Conservancy with research findings from Andrea Diss-Torrance, Invasive Forest Insects Program Coordinator, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Update on Firewood certification from industry and regulators – Geoff Friedman, Lost Coast Forest Products

Presentations: Panel #4 Citizen Science, Social Media, and Youth Engagement to advance Tree Health Monitoring

Before lunch, participants entered the fourth set of panel presentations, this time focusing on citizen science, social media, and youth engagement to advance tree health monitoring. Again, the presentations ended with a discussion and question and answer facilitated by John Stapleton. The presentations and presenters are listed below. Speaker bios are available [here](#).

- [Embedding citizen science into K-12 curricula: Empowering youth to help manage the urban forest ecosystem](#) – Samuel Severance, University of Colorado Boulder
- [Hungry Pests Campaign](#) – Abbey Powell, National Outreach Campaign Manager, USDA APHIS

- [Plant Heroes' Plant Mapping Platform](#) – Dan Stern, American Public Gardens Association
- [Integrating the i-Tree Software Suite with NGSS Standards-based lesson plans in the classroom](#) – Jessica Sanders, Casey Trees & Arielle Conti, The Davey Institute

Lunch: Screening of Andrea Torrice's *Trees in Trouble* documentary

During the lunch hour, participants were fortunate to view a screening of *Trees in Trouble*, a documentary film by Andrea Torrice. *Trees in Trouble* tells the story of America's urban and community forests and the threats they face.

Visit the [website](#) to learn more. Click [here](#) to watch a short preview of the film.

Presentations: Panel #5 National and International Policy Educational Approaches for Key Stakeholders and Decision Makers

After lunch, participants entered the fifth and final set of panel presentations, this time focusing on national and international policy educational approaches for key stakeholders and decision makers. The presentations ended with a discussion and question and answer facilitated by Scott Cameron. The presentations and presenters are listed below. Speaker bios are available [here](#).

- [Progress and Policy Update regarding Coalition Against Forest Pests](#) – Faith Campbell, Vice President Center for Invasive Species Prevention
- [Institutional Considerations in Deploying Bio-control for Tamarisk in Colorado](#) – Dan Bean, Director of Biological Pest Control at the Colorado Department of Agriculture
- [Policy Approaches for Forest Ecosystems](#) – Gary Lovett, Senior Scientist Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies
- Western Governors' Association – Troy Timmons, Deputy Director of Operations and Strategic Planning, Western Governors' Association
- [National Invasive Species Council Policy Initiatives](#) – Stas Burgiel, Assistant Director for Protection and Budgetary Coordination, National Invasive Species Council
- Presentation of Policy recommendations and Q&A Session

Where Do We Go Next? Summary, Timeline and Actions for 2015 and 2016

The Dialogue meeting began winding down with the where do we go next session. During this session, participants revisited the questions posed to the group at the start of the meeting. Meeting attendees discussed opportunities for Dialogue actions in 2015 and 2016. Participants identified priorities moving forward, and they acknowledged the efforts of individuals and their roles in moving the Dialogue's mission forward, including this meeting. Finally, the Steering Committee identified its next steps for the Dialogue.

Participant List

Below is the list of participants, including email addresses, who attended the Continental Dialogue on Non-Native Forest Insects and Diseases in 2015.

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