

Canadian Forest Owners
June 7 – 8, 2022
Ottawa Government Meetings

Meeting Goals:

Goals of the Canadian Forest Owner Meetings in Ottawa:

1. Introduce Canadian Forest Owners – Commitment to Communities, Climate and Working Together.
2. Mention that we are developing, with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, a two billion trees proposal to work in partnership with the federal government to meet its commitment.
3. Highlight Concerns with Migratory Birds Regulations – We are disappointed in the process to include Pileated Woodpecker in Schedule 1 of regulations (not evidence-based). We call for a balanced approach, proper consultations and workable compliance mechanisms including Incidental considerations.

Key Messages - Canadian Forest Owners - Local Forests for a Healthy Climate

Community

- Our 450,000 members include small and medium-sized businesses, large companies, pension funds, diverse communities, families, First Nations and female-led businesses from coast to coast.
- Our members are your neighbours who supply fresh drinking water, important fish, wildlife and plant habitats, forest products and other social and environmental services that support local businesses and our communities.
- We are committed to long-term resilient forests and a healthy climate.

Climate

- Managed resilient forests capture carbon, and low-carbon forest products are key tools for Canada to meet its climate commitment under the Paris Agreement and a net-zero economy by 2050.
- We are committed to sustainable forest management to enhance biodiversity and help fight climate change.
- Our members use science-based practices, including third-party certification, to manage wildlife habitats, biodiversity and water protection.

Working Together

- Canadian Forest Owners are committed to vibrant, growing communities and a collaborative approach to Indigenous partnerships.
- We account for a tenth of managed forests in Canada and contribute to one-fifth of its' forest production.
- ***CFO and Canadian Federation of Agriculture members are proposing a partnership with the government to help in planting 2 Billion trees to fight climate change. We will need your support.***

A More Balanced Approach to Migratory Birds Regulations (MBRs)

Ask: We must amend the proposed regulation to protect migratory birds in a way that balances the needs of the birds and the Canadian economy (i. e. evidence-based). It must include workable compliance mechanisms such as incidental considerations.

We are deeply committed to wildlife and habitat conservation and protection efforts and take every possible action possible to proceed according to federal environmental legislation.

The modernizations to the MBR include several changes that our sector support, including recognizing Indigenous harvesting rights, the gifting of feathers, charity permits, emergency situations, changes to hunting bag limits, and general modernization to align better with contemporary environmental legislation.

Canadian forest owners strive to balance public interest and private property rights within a policy and incentive framework that encourage responsible stewardship. By maintaining their land in the forest, private forest owners contribute to conserving biodiversity and maintaining thriving forest ecosystems.

More flexible compliance tools (e.g., science-based beneficial management practices for activities including harvest and road construction) are needed for migratory birds to support overall policy coherence with multiple levels of government and support the overall objectives of climate mitigation and adaptation.

The process of including the Pileated Woodpecker in Schedule 1 is of concern. It is not transparent, the industry was not adequately consulted, and critical evidence to support the decision was not shared.

Pileated Woodpecker populations are healthy and increasing. The species is ubiquitous across forests and open woodlands across Canada. Pileated Woodpeckers excavate cavities in trees for the purpose of feeding and nesting. Pileated Woodpeckers are known to build new nests every year. The 36-month waiting period to protect all Pileated Woodpeckers cavities (roosting and nesting), on the assumption that it will potentially reuse the nest in that period, is not strongly supported by the science.

The regulation is about to become law (or is the law by June), and we firmly believe it will have to be amended. We remain committed to working with you to fix the regulations and include workable compliance mechanisms such as incidental considerations.

Other Messaging As Required

National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

CFO sees opportunities for the forest sector to contribute to the strategy and be part of a whole-of-society approach. Essentially forest management has a key role in resilient forests and landscapes

Species at Risk Act

We are committed to wildlife and habitat conservation in a balanced approach. CFO is involved in the SARA Forest Sector Consultation Table on SARA implementation. The process and expected outcomes need to be clarified.

Fiscal Changes in Legislation to Promote forest Management

We support federal fiscal changes to promote forest management, more specifically the implementation of two key recommendations in the February 2021 Finance Standing Committee Report:

- **Recommendation 103** *Introduce a **Registered Savings Plan** for the forestry industry to allow private logging income, under certain conditions, to be tax-sheltered and that its use for forest management purposes remains nontaxable.*
- **Recommendation 104** *Introduce a **logging income averaging regime for private loggers** to divide occasional felling income over several years and prevent forest management costs over the years from being higher than the net income generated in the logging year.*

Market Access

Protecting and expanding market access for sustainable and low-carbon Canadian forest products is of the utmost importance to our sector and the thousands of families and hundreds of communities who rely on us.