



To: FIMW Challenge Dialogue Participants

March 20, 2006

Re: Developing a Vision, Framework and Actions for Sharing Forest Information

Dear Colleague:

The focus on efficient and effective management of resource based information continues to grow. More and more the focus is now dealing with the flow of information between organizations. In order to ensure that information management activities create positive value for all of us we need to understand upcoming initiatives, share concerns and work cooperatively to improve our business processes.

The Forest Information Management Workshop is initiating a Dialogue on the development of a Vision, Framework and Actions for Sharing Forest Information. Co-Champions for this dialogue are:

1. **Mark Todd** **Woodlands Information Mgmt Coordinator
Canadian Forest Products LTD.**
2. **Evert Kenk** **Executive Director, Chief Resource Information Office
Integrated Land Management Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture and
Lands**
3. **Amin Kassam** **Director, Base Mapping and Geomatic Services Branch
Integrated Land Management Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture and
Lands**

We would like to invite you to participate in an important Challenge Dialogue aimed at informing the development of a Vision, Framework and Actions for Sharing Forest Information for the FIMW. The Organizing Team sees our collective **Key Challenge** to be the following:

Building on the outputs, suggestions and momentum of the 2006 FIMW Workshop —

- to engage a spectrum of the FIMW participants in a focused and structured Dialogue that embraces and capitalizes on the range of perspectives and ideas on the issues and opportunities regarding the effective and efficient sharing of forest information , and
- to seek alignment on these views in order to shape a shared vision, design a common data sharing framework and identify a set of concrete actions toward achieving the vision.

We are inviting a diverse group of practitioners and innovative thinkers to explore this Challenge with us, following a disciplined process called the Challenge Dialogue System™ (CDS). Dialogue in this context isn't "just talk", but rather is purposeful conversation among a diverse set of players whose individual views and collaborative thoughts are essential for addressing the challenge.

This conversation is designed to unleash innovative thinking that will lead to a collaborative strategy - including options for solutions that are relevant and will have tangible benefits to all who have a stake in the application and/or use of forest information.

You have been invited to participate in this Dialogue because:

- The Organizing Team for this Dialogue and project believe you have a clear interest and possibly a direct stake in the outcomes.

- We respect your opinion and believe you have many relevant and good ideas to contribute.
- We believe you are open to exploring new ideas and engaging in some out-of-the-box thinking that will be beneficial for addressing this rather large and daunting challenge.

The Challenge Dialogue process is a flexible approach that will nurture creative thinking and reactions to the Key Challenge stated above. The process has sufficient structure to ensure that our limited time together at a face-to-face workshop on May 7 will be highly focused and productive. More details on the workshop will be made available in the next few weeks. *Please note, due to practical constraints, we regret that only a subset of the Challenge Paper participants will be able to attend this workshop. Due to the potentially large number of participants in this Challenge Dialogue (approximately 120), the number of participants in the Face to Face Dialogue will be limited to only those who respond to the Challenge Paper. **By responding to the Challenge Paper, you are under no obligation to commit to attending the Face to Face Dialogue.*** This underscores the importance for people to provide their perspectives via their response to this Challenge Paper. These views will be brought forward in the ongoing Dialogue and workshop sessions.

Assuming you are able to participate in the process, here is what is involved:

Please provide written input (electronic) to the Challenge Paper that is attached to this invitation. This paper sets important context for the face-to-face Workshop Dialogue session.

- Your feedback will be synthesized by the Organizing Team and incorporated into a **Workshop Workbook**, which will be provided electronically to the Dialogue participants a few days before the workshop. (Note: In this synthesis, your comments will not be attributed to you by name or affiliation.)
- Your response to this pre-Dialogue will also help us structure the workshop to maximize the efficiency of our interactions.

Participation in a face-to-face workshop on May 7 (in Kamloops at Thompson Rivers University):

- Confirming where there is alignment of views.
- Reaching or moving closer to alignment in areas of difference.
- Obtaining clarity where there is confusion and filling in any gaps in understanding.
- Fleshing out what will become the main elements and options for the Vision, Framework and Actions (Note - the initial expectations for this Dialogue and the Workshop will be contained in the Challenge Paper).

To help us develop the Strategy, we have retained the assistance of Tesera Systems Inc.¹ and R. Keith Jones & Associates² The consulting team will be working closely with us on the Challenge Dialogue process (see attached figure), in providing supporting analysis and in bringing the Vision, Framework and Actions together following this Dialogue process.

In advance, thank you for your contributions! www.fimbc.ca



Mark Todd, RPF
Woodlands Information Mgmt
Coordinator
Canadian Forest Products LTD.



Evert Ken
Executive Director, Chief Resource
Information Office
Integrated Land Management Bureau,
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands



Amin Kassam
Director, Base Mapping and Geomatic
Services Branch
Integrated Land Management Bureau,
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

¹Dwight Scott Wolfe - Tesera Systems Inc.

²Keith Jones – R. Keith Jones & Associates