

# FIRST ANNOUCEMENT – PRELIMINARY CALL

## 70<sup>th</sup> Western Forest Insect Work Conference April 27 – 30, 2020, Edmonton, Alberta, CANADA Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel by APA

**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE & MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND the 70<sup>th</sup> WESTERN FOREST INSECT WORK CONFERENCE in APRIL 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

### *Vision 2020: Lessons learned from past for the future*

Forests are under constant threat from insect and disease outbreaks. Thus, managing sustainable forest is increasingly important to meet the competing needs of the public for the wide array of products and services provided by forests. Over the past century, a large body of knowledge has been developed through scientific research in academic institutions, federal and provincial/state forestry agencies, and private enterprise. Yet, independent of these efforts, over centuries, even millennia, indigenous communities have developed a holistic understanding of the ecological dynamics of the land they inhabit. Unfortunately, their skill and knowledge has often remained unacknowledged. As we approach 2020, forest management demands that an inclusive range of perspectives be considered when developing disturbance management practices to sustain ecosystem services provided by forests. Thus, the scientific community has an obligation to reflect on past mistakes to develop new knowledge, strategies, and technologies to solve emerging challenges in sustainable forest management. One of the principle goals of this workshop is to assess lessons learned from past and to establish guidelines for future management of forest resources.

This workshop will provide the ideal forum for updating knowledge, evidences, solutions, and failures between scientific, academic, and practical approaches. It will also provide opportunities to enhance the dialogue between long experienced practitioners and the next generations of scientist, which will provide creative and new solutions in the near future.

Workshop topic submissions are welcome in all areas of forestry, including, but not limited to, the following topics:

- Ecology and management of bark beetles in western North America
- Climate impacts on forest insect outbreaks
- Forest pollinators
- Forests and biodiversity
- Knowledge management
- Use of indigenous knowledge in forest management
- Insect outbreaks on high elevation forests
- Invasive forest and urban insects
- Insect and disease assessment
- Forest defoliators
- Forest insect pest management and control
- Others.....

At this time, we are soliciting proposals for workshop, as well as volunteers to organize those sessions. Please submit proposals to Caroline Whitehouse at [caroline.whitehouse@gov.ab.ca](mailto:caroline.whitehouse@gov.ab.ca). Direct graduate student submissions to Jennifer Klutsch at [klutsch@ualberta.ca](mailto:klutsch@ualberta.ca)

### **Accommodation rate, tentative registration fees and conference services**

Hotel rooms will cost \$116 CAN per night, plus taxes, and rates will be available for three days prior to and after the meeting. Tentative registration fees are \$450 CAN for early birds, \$550 CAN late regular, and \$150 CAN for students. More information about lodging and registration is coming soon in the second call.

Registration fees include conference fees; cocktail and snacks at the social Monday evening; coffee breaks Tuesday & Thursday; field trip (including lunch) on Wednesday; and Founders Award dinner on Wednesday.

Depending on the funding obtained by external sponsors, a program of prizes and travel grants for students will be established based on the quality of the papers upon acceptance and that of the posters and presentations during the conference.

### **Tentative Calendar & relevant dates (will be updated on the second call)**

December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. First announcement and preliminary call.

January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Second announcement. Website launch, committee composition, hotels and preliminary program.

February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Registration open and call for abstracts.

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Deadline for abstract submission and early bird registration

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Final programme and deadline for hotel booking with special fare.

### **Call for sponsorship and donations**

Support from other institutions and organizations is welcome. This support would help offset the conference costs and advertise their contribution to protecting forest resources. Funds will be also used to offset keynote speakers travel costs, student travel grants, the field trip and other conference expenses. If you are interested in sponsoring or donate funds, please contact Nadir Erbilgin at [erbilgin@ualberta.ca](mailto:erbilgin@ualberta.ca).

### **Please, help us**

In order to improve the conference organization, it would be VERY HELPFUL if you could answer to the following brief survey and email it to: Caroline Whitehouse at [caroline.whitehouse@gov.ab.ca](mailto:caroline.whitehouse@gov.ab.ca).

- I am planning to attend the workshop
- I may attend the workshop
- I cannot attend but keep me in the mailing list
- I would like to submit an abstract for an oral presentation
- I would like to submit an abstract for a poster presentation
- Please take me off the mailing list