Partners Beneath the Trees: Building Collaboration in Managing for Non-Timber Forest Products

Panel:
- Darcy Mitchell, Centre for Non-Timber Resources, RRU, Victoria, BC, Canada
  email: darcy.mitchell@royalroads.ca

Acknowledgements:
Gordon Prest and Pamela Perreault, Coordinators for First Nations, Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia
BC Forest Practices Board

- Rebecca McLain, Institute for Culture and Ecology, Portland, OR, USA
  email: mclain@ifcae.org

Acknowledgements: We thank Jen McAdoo and Lynn Schneider for the many hours they contributed to data input and analysis. We also are grateful to Rod Sallee and Roger Fight for facilitating the distribution of the surveys upon which this discussion is based. We also thank the many Forest Service employees who took time from their busy schedules to complete the survey.

- Ron Smith, Natural Resources Canada, Atlantic Forestry Centre, Fredericton, NB, Canada
  email: rosmith@nrcan.gc.ca

- James Chamberlain, US Department of Agriculture, Blacksburg, VI, USA
  email: jachambe@vt.edu

- Wendy Cocksedge, Centre for Non-Timber Resources, RRU, Victoria, BC, Canada
  email: wendy.cocksedge@royalroads.ca

Acknowledgements: Thank you to all the experts – harvesters, industry and academics – who have shared their time and knowledge.

Abstract:
Summary: Forest management for non-timber products affects diverse groups of stakeholders, many of whom are typically not in the mainstream of forest management. This panel presentation will address a wide range of issues and opportunities in collaborative management of NTFPs.

Abstract: Identifying appropriate partners and building relationships with them are complicated by such factors as fragmentation and diversity of the NTFP industry, the lack of mature industry sectors, marginalized labour forces, the nature of many NTFPs as unmanaged commons, and the interests and rights of Indigenous peoples. However, because of the relatively unstructured nature of the NTFP sector,
opportunities exist for forging new relationships that are often more difficult to achieve in more established sectors. The proposed panel members have diverse experience with partnerships to improve forest management. This panel will explore constraints and opportunities to forming effective partnerships. They will discuss issues and prospects of partnerships at local, national and international levels, including partnerships between and among NTFP harvesters and regulatory agencies, between researchers and Indigenous communities, between researchers and industry, as well as examples of partnership development that extend across a full range of interests in the NTFP sector.

Keywords: non-timber forest products, policy development, resource management, partnerships