The benefit of multi-country study tours: A history of the relationship between Australia, New Zealand and North America.

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2014 Study Tour to Australia and New Zealand

- Australian Capital Territory (ACT)
- New South Wales
- ACT- Symposium
- Victoria
- Tasmania
- New Zealand
  - Christchurch
  - Auckland
2014 Participants
Takeaways from the Study Tour

• Relationships
• Engagement of stakeholders
• Common operating picture
• Landscape approach
• Shared responsibility
• Future research
• FFMG - FMWG
• Bushfire Symposium
History

- Fire Management Working Group of the North American Forest Commission has been operating since 1962.

- Members
  - Canada
  - United States
  - Mexico

- Key objective of the Fire Management Working Group is to promote mutual assistance for wildland fire response among its three participating countries.
History

• Study Tours started in North America in 1968
  – Twenty-seven persons, representing 23 countries toured the United States for over two months.

• Since then, numerous tours have taken place throughout North America. At each FMWG annual meeting, the host strives to provide a study tour for the participants.
Australia and New Zealand

- 1951- Australia Luke and Torbet toured the US
- Early 1980 US/Canada started regular Study Tours with AUS/NZ
- Visitors from AUS and NZ tour the U.S. and Canada on a four year cycle as well—with an exchange between the two hemispheres occurring about every two years.
- 2014, first year Mexico sent a person on the study tour
Outcomes

• Important tools and technologies
  – Incident Command System adopted in Australia and New Zealand
  – Lighting detection and mapping
  – Common Operating Picture
  – Exchange of research
  – Emergency operational assistance during severe fire seasons between the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand
Creating your own study tour

• Benefits
  – Relationships
  – Sharing technologies
  – Lesson learnt
  – Sharing resources
Hurdles

• Language
• Planning
  – Location
  – Time of year
• Understand end state of study tour
• Cost
Important Tips

- Plan early
- Have a in country tour guide for the whole tour
- Develop a detailed plan from locations to travel times and motels.
- Make backup plans due to weather or learning opportunities
- Look at travel times on bus or planes.
- Leadership involvement
- Down time
- Do a final report
It’s all about Relationships

• Study tour was about developing and maintaining relationships
Thank You

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