



Canadian Fire Effects Model: predicting fire behaviour and fire effects



Bill de Groot



Natural Resources
Canada

Ressources naturelles
Canada

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CanFIRE Overview



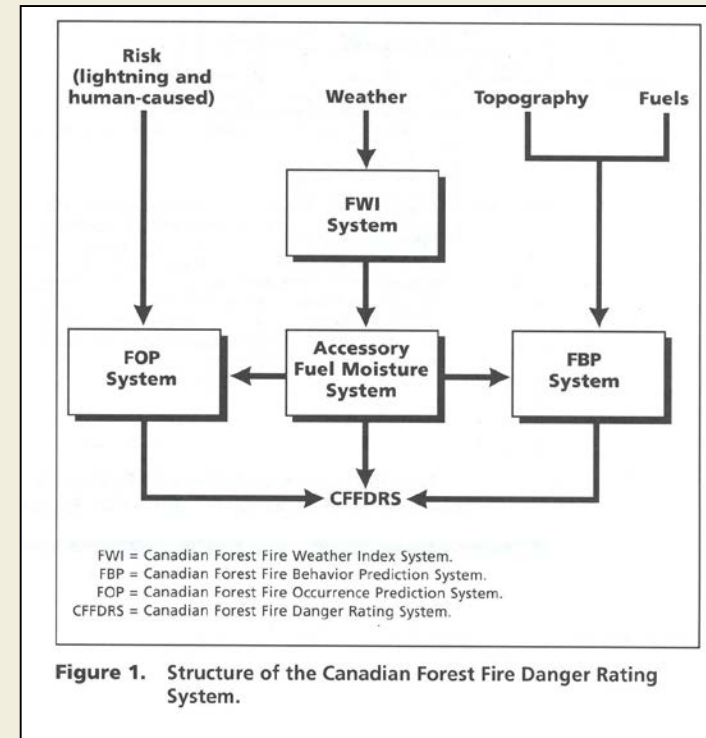
- CFFDRS science-management integration model
- Stand-level, fire behaviour-based model
- Simulates physical and ecological fire effects
- Small scale (fire behaviour) to large scale (fire regimes)
- new fuel consumption equations
- dynamic fuel model (fully adjustable)





CanFIRE Overview

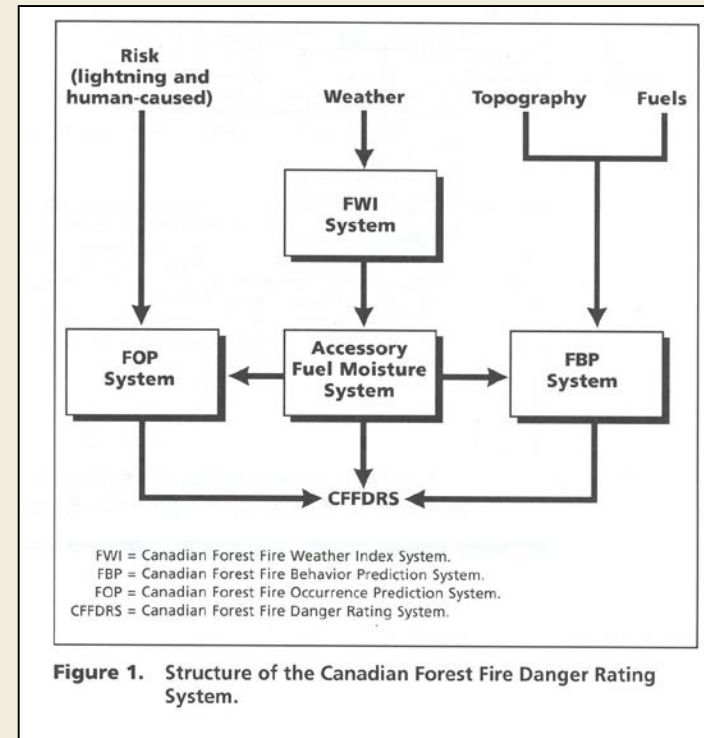
- CFFDRS is a primary model driver
- Fire weather, fire behaviour





CanFIRE Overview

- CFFDRS is a primary model driver
- Fire weather, fire behaviour
- Need to predict site impacts and ecological effects





Fire Weather

FWI System

- Fuel moisture

Weather data

Fire Behaviour

FBP System

- Rate of spread
- Fuel consumption
- Fire intensity

Fuels, topography
data

Fire Effects

Fire Effects Prediction

- Physical (soil impacts, emissions)
- Ecological (mortality, regeneration, growth)

Fire ecology, site
quality data





Fire
Weather

**FWI
System**

Fire
Behaviour

**FBP
System**

Fire
Effects

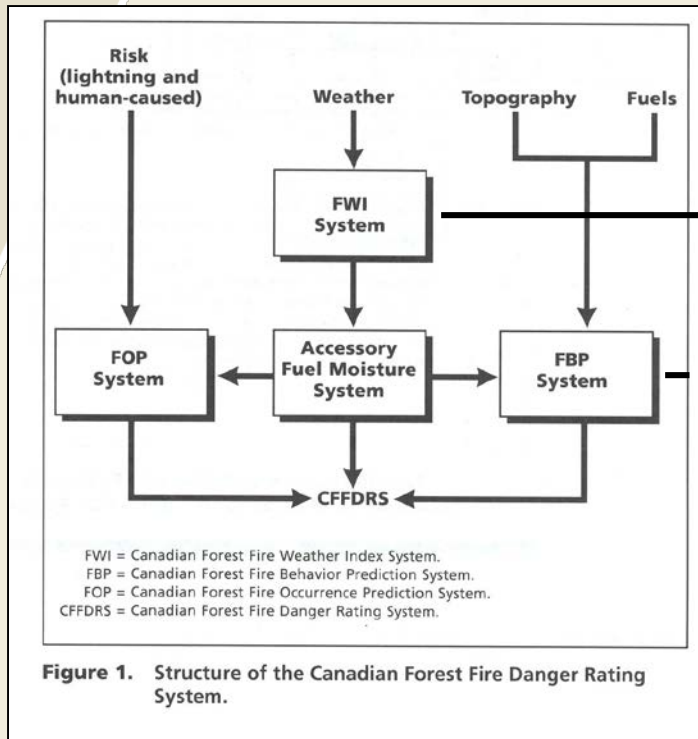
**Fire Effects
Prediction**

CanFIRE Model





CanFIRE Overview



Forest Inventory
or field fuels data

CanFIRE

Fire behaviour:

- rate of spread
- fuel consumption
- fire intensity, type

Physical fire effects:

- depth of burn
- C emissions
- crown scorch ht

Ecological fire effects:

- tree mortality/survival
- regeneration
- postfire succession





Fire Behaviour

FBP System:

- Fire Rate of Spread
- Fuel Consumption
- Head Fire Intensity





Fire Behaviour

FBP System:

- Fire Rate of Spread
- Fuel Consumption
- Head Fire Intensity

CanFIRE:

- FBP Rate of Spread
- Fuel Consumption – new equations from FBP database and post-wildfire sampling
- Head Fire Intensity –
Byram's Equation ($I = hw_r$)





Dynamic Fuels Module

- variable fuel load in different stand components, changing over time
- link to forest inventory or field data





Fuel Type Models

FBP System

- C-1 Spruce lichen-woodland
- C-2 Boreal spruce
- C-3 Mature jack/lodge pole pine
- C-4 Immature jack/lodge pole pine
- C-5 Red and white pine
- C-6 Conifer plantation
- C-7 Ponderosa pine-Douglas fir
- D-1 Leafless aspen
- M-x Boreal mixedwoods (4 types)
- S-x Slash (pine, white spruce-balsam, western cedar-hemlock-fir)
- O-1x Grass





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- O-1x Grass

CanFIRE

- Black spruce
- Jack pine
- White spruce
- Aspen
- White birch
- Balsam fir
- Slash
- Grass





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CanFIRE

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- Slash
- Grass

CanFIRE dII

~ 200 tree species





NG-CFFDRS Fuels Module

- NG-CFFDRS emphasis on physical modeling, building on past empirical modeling approach
- NG will maintain CFFDRS modular approach, so will have a single 'Fuels Module' for all subsystems (FOP, FBP, etc).
- NG Fuels Module is about modeling fuel structure:
 - quantified and adjustable fuels
 - simulating fuel change over time (dynamic)
 - represent all Canadian 'fuel types'

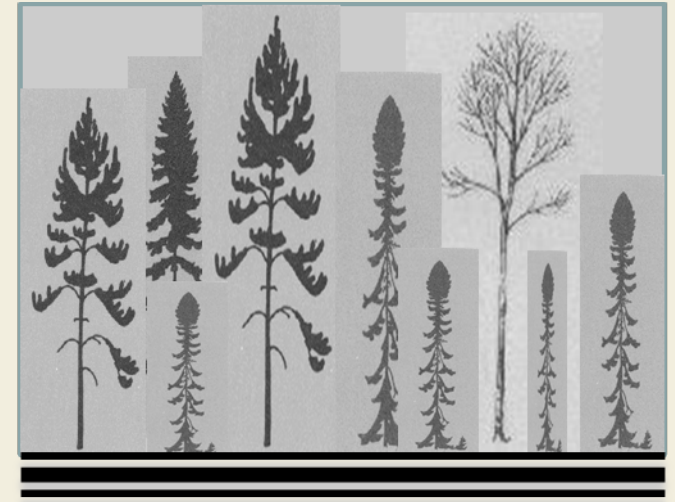




NG-CFFDRS Fuels Module

Single standard Fuel Model that is quantified to represent all possible fuel types:

- Forest stand – unit of measure (fuel complex)
- Stand comprised of separate fuel components, each with:
 - fuel load
 - fuel size
 - vertical and horizontal distribution





NG-CFFDRS Fuels Module

Single standard fuel model
with 3 strata:

- Ground (sub-surface) fuels
- Surface fuels
- Crown fuels

Each fuel strata has a separate
fuel consumption model



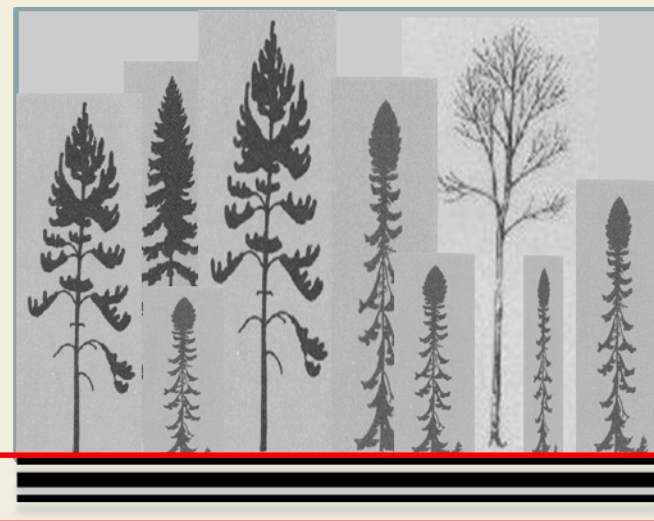


NG-CFFDRS Fuels Module

Ground fuels criteria:

- LFH, corresponds with:
 - Litter, upper and lower organic layers (duff)
 - FWI fuel moisture codes (FFMC, DMC, DC)
- Depth and load

Used to calculate flaming ground fuel consumption contributing to surface HFI; and to calculate total ground fuel consumption for C emissions



Available data source:
Letang and de Groot. 2012. Can. J.
For Res. 42:1551-1565





NG-CFFDRS Fuels Module

Surface fuels criteria:

- Dead Woody Debris (diameter size classes)
- Shrubs*

Used to calculate flaming surface (and ground) fuel consumption to calculate surface HFI and crown fire threshold



Future data source:
Hanes, Letang and de Groot. In prep





CanFIRE Fuel Consumption

Dead and Downed Woody Debris

3 possible calculation methods:

- all size classes (0-1, 1-3, 3-5, 5-7, 7+ cm)
- coarse (7cm+) and medium (<7cm) woody debris
- total woody debris





NG-CFFDRS Fuels Module

Crown fuels criteria:

- Tree species, height, dbh, stand density
- Separate conifer/broadleaf
- Tree biomass equations for fuel load (foliage, bark, branch, stem)
- Crown fuel consumption equation not applied to hardwoods

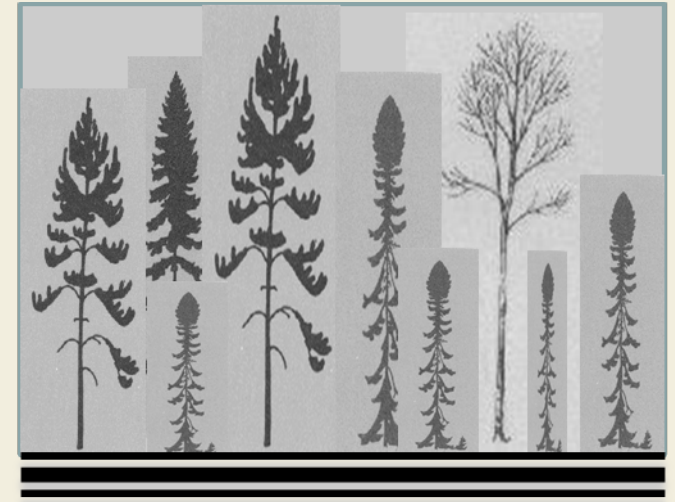




NG-CFFDRS Fuels Module

Ground, surface and crown fuel components of the forest stand can be quantified using various data sources:

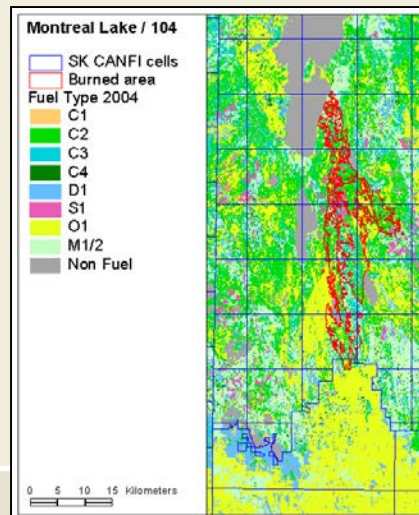
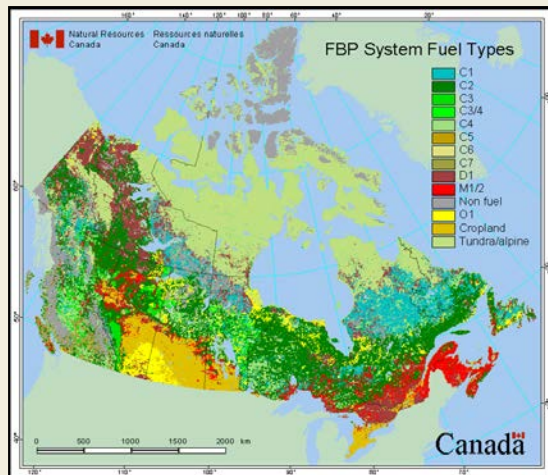
- Forest inventory
- C-pool datasets
- LIDAR
- Other EO and ground-based compilations





CanFIRE Fuels data

Forest Inventory \longrightarrow Spatial fuel load/type databases



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CanFIRE Fuels data

Forest Inventory



Spatial fuel load/type databases

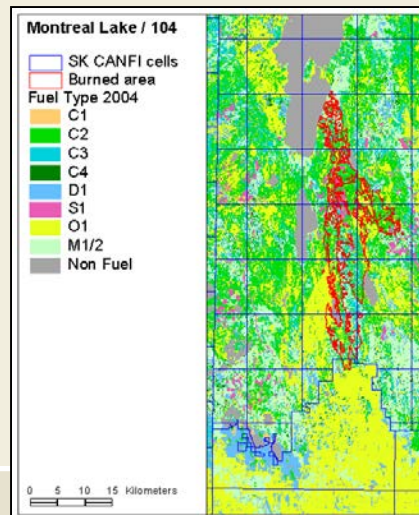
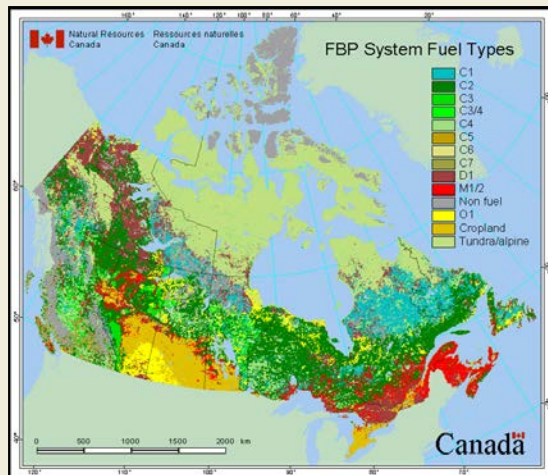
e.g., $Pj_5Sb_3Po_2$
age, site class



Fuels
Converter

For each species:

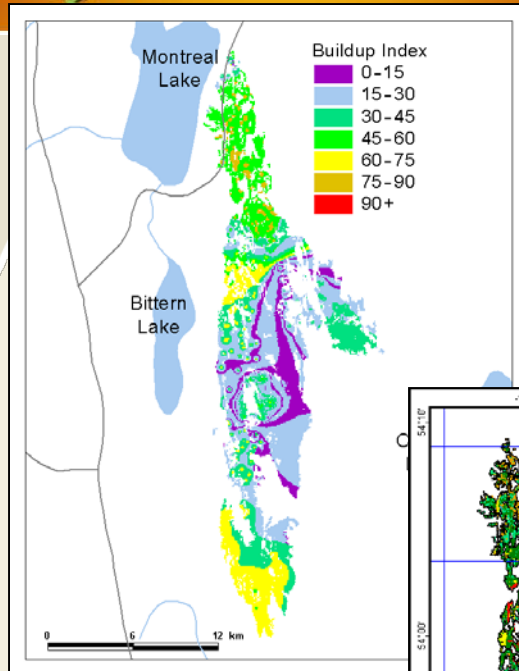
- stocking, ht, dbh, live crown base ht
- fuel load (kg/m²; wood, bark, branch, foliage)



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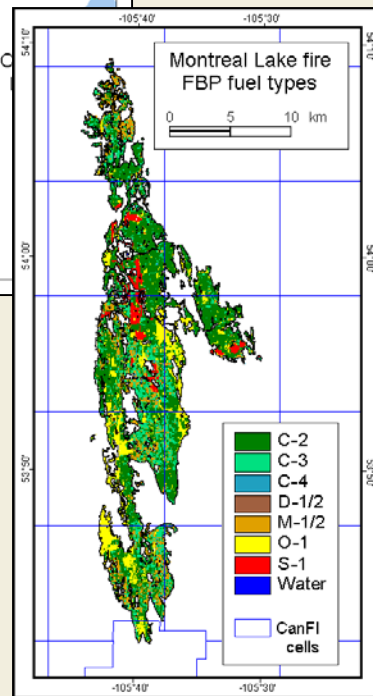
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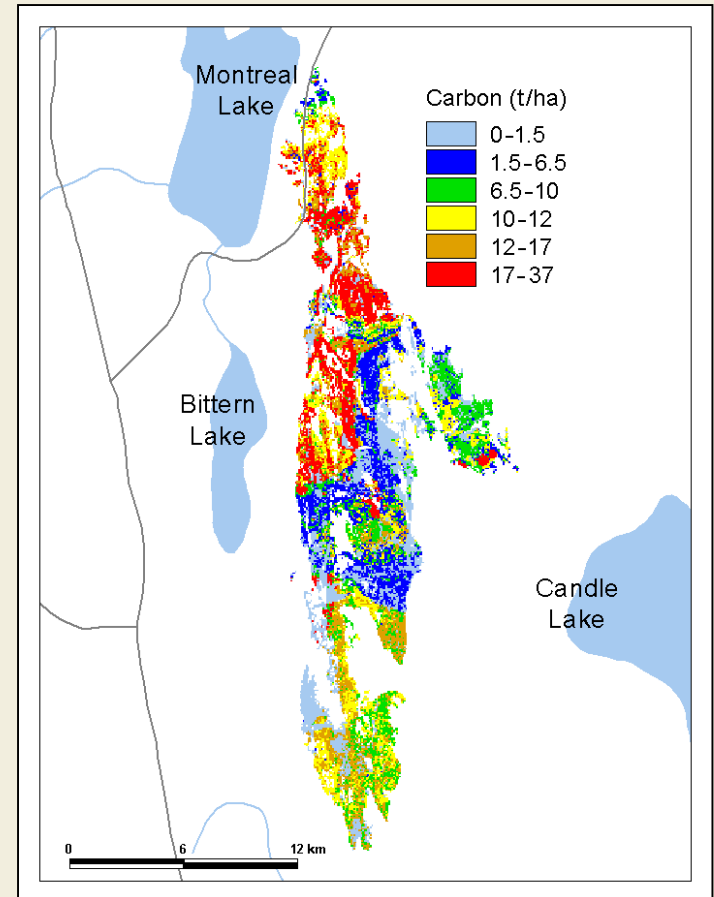


Burning
Conditions

Fuels
(load, type)



Fire behaviour, fire effects projections



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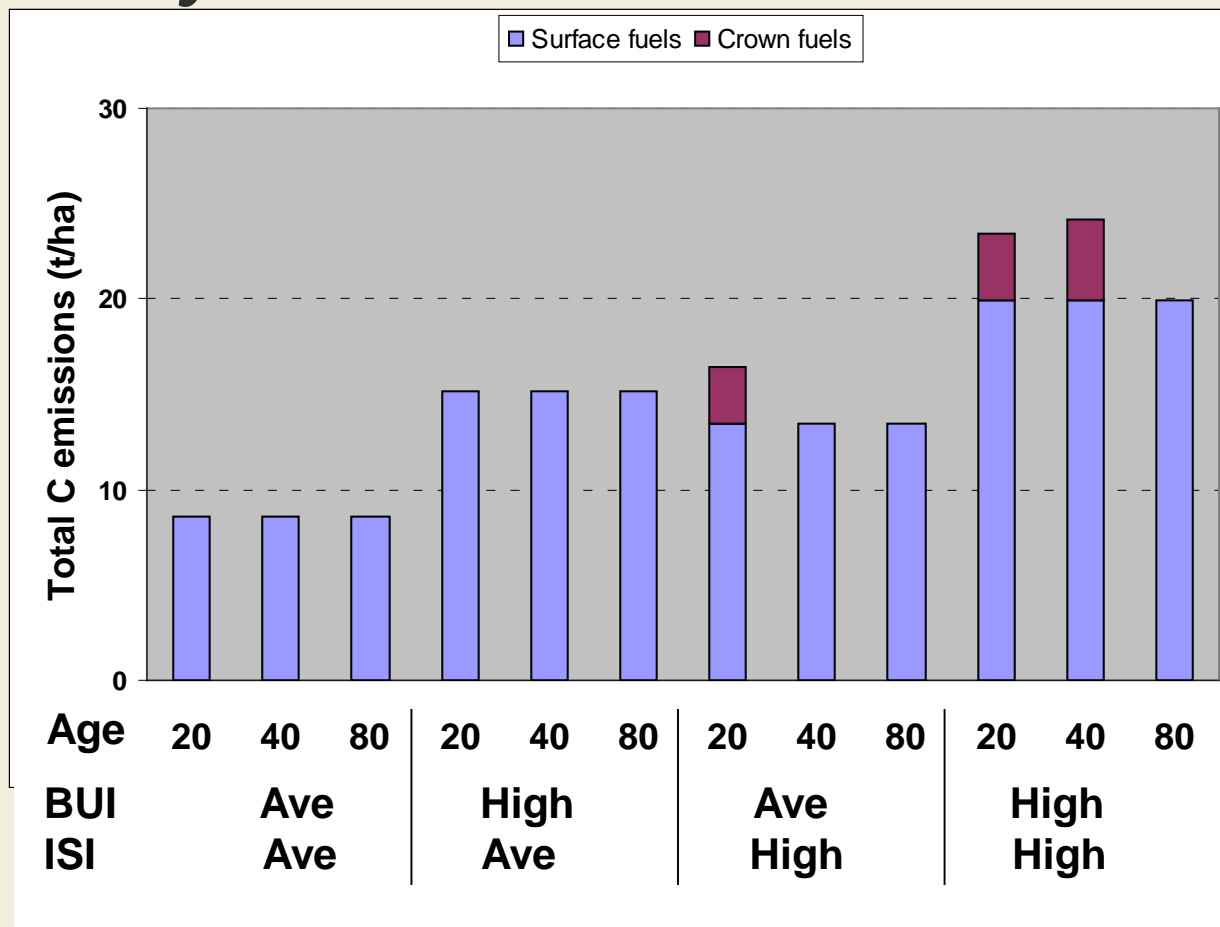
Pinus sylvestris

Pinus banksiana



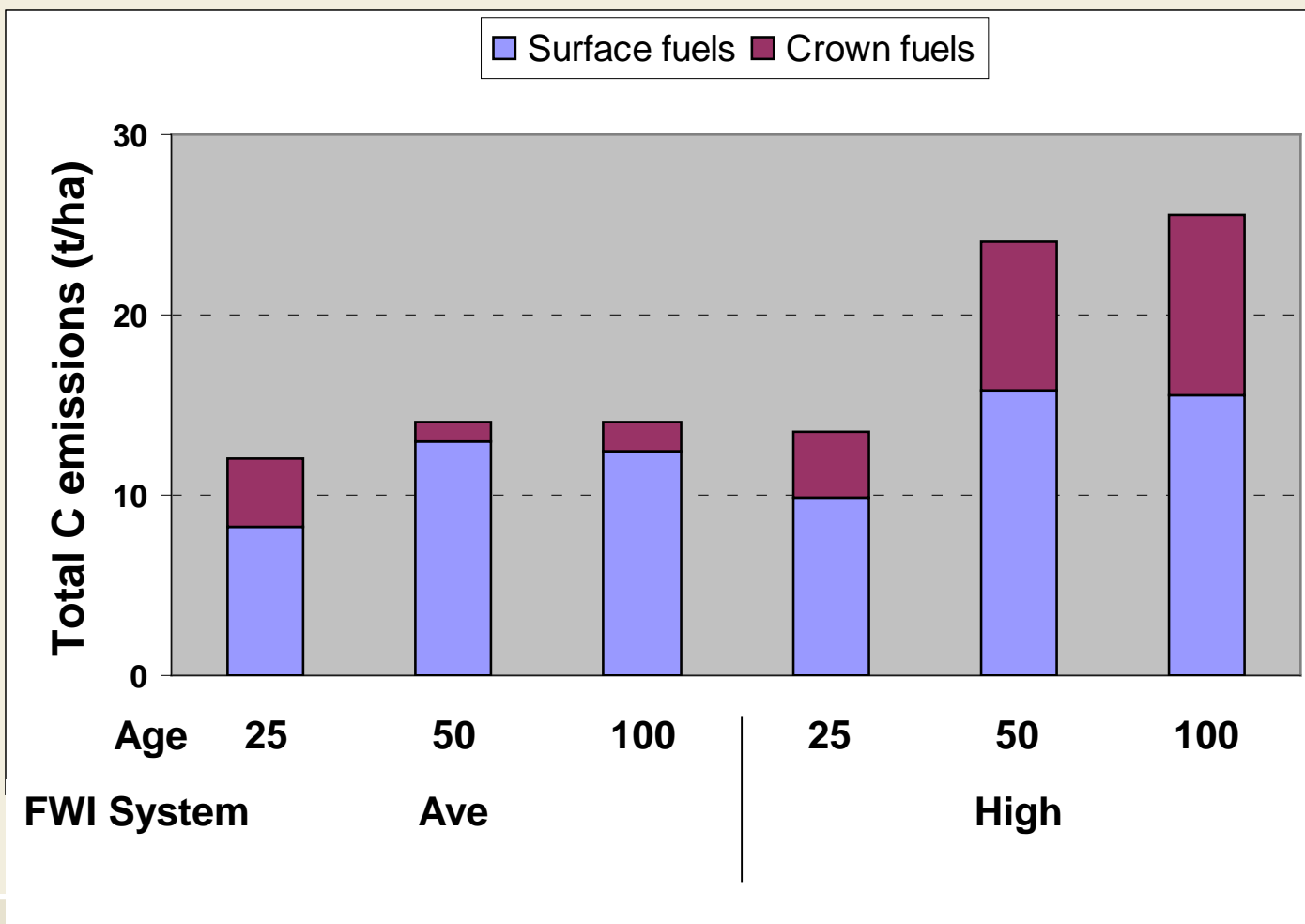


Pinus sylvestris Total C Emissions



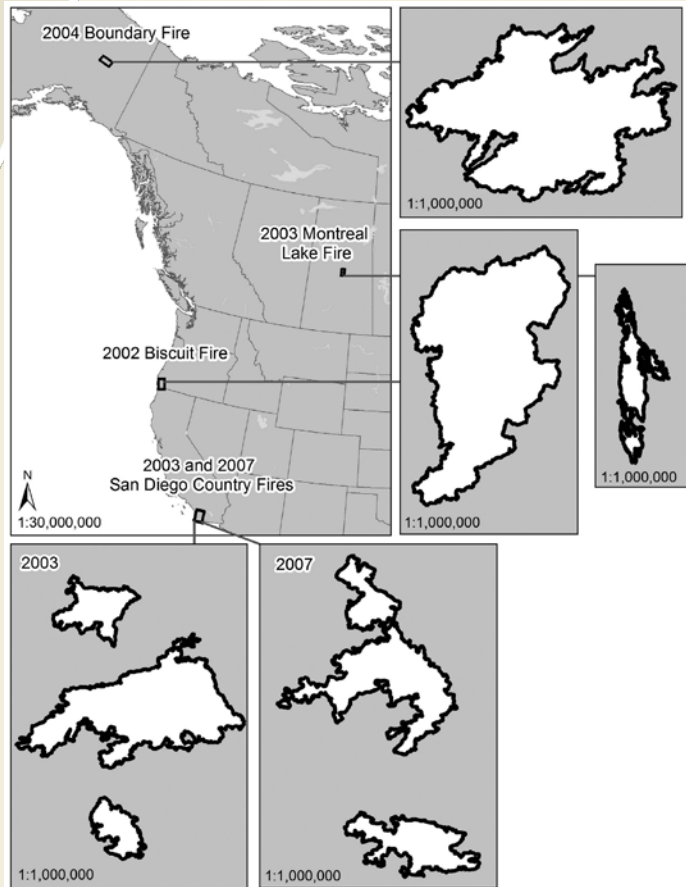


Pinus banksiana Total C Emissions





Comparison of North American Fires



- 2002 Biscuit Fire, Oregon
- 2003 Montreal Lake Fire, Saskatchewan
- 2004 Boundary Fire, Alaska

French, N.H.F., de Groot, W.J., Jenkins, L.K., Rogers, B.M., Alvarado, E., Amiro, B., de Jong, B., Goetz, S., Hoy, E., Hyer, E., Keane, R., Law, B.E., McKenzie, D., McNulty, S.G., Ottmar, R., Pérez-Salicrup, D.R., Randerson, J., Robertson, K.M., Turetsky, M., 2011. **Model comparisons for estimating carbon emissions from North American wildland fire.** *J. Geophys. Res.* 116, G00K05.



Biscuit Fire, Oregon 2002

Fuel types:

Douglas-fir -- sugar pine -- tanoak forest

Jeffrey pine -- ponderosa pine -- Douglas-fir -- California black oak forest

Pacific ponderosa pine – Douglas-fir forest

Douglas-fir -- madrone – tanoak forest

Fuel Characteristic Classification System (FCCS):

- Forest floor, DWD, tree fuel loads
- tree heights
- LCBH interpreted from ht
- conifer/hardwood (crowning?)

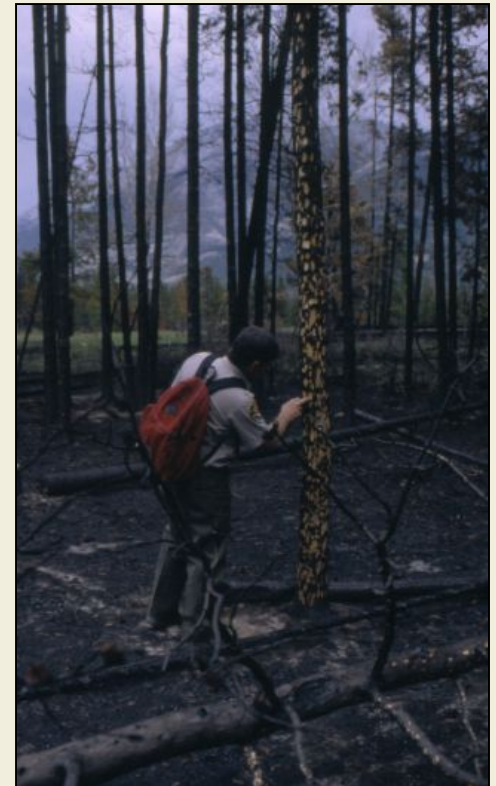




CanFIRE Fire Effects

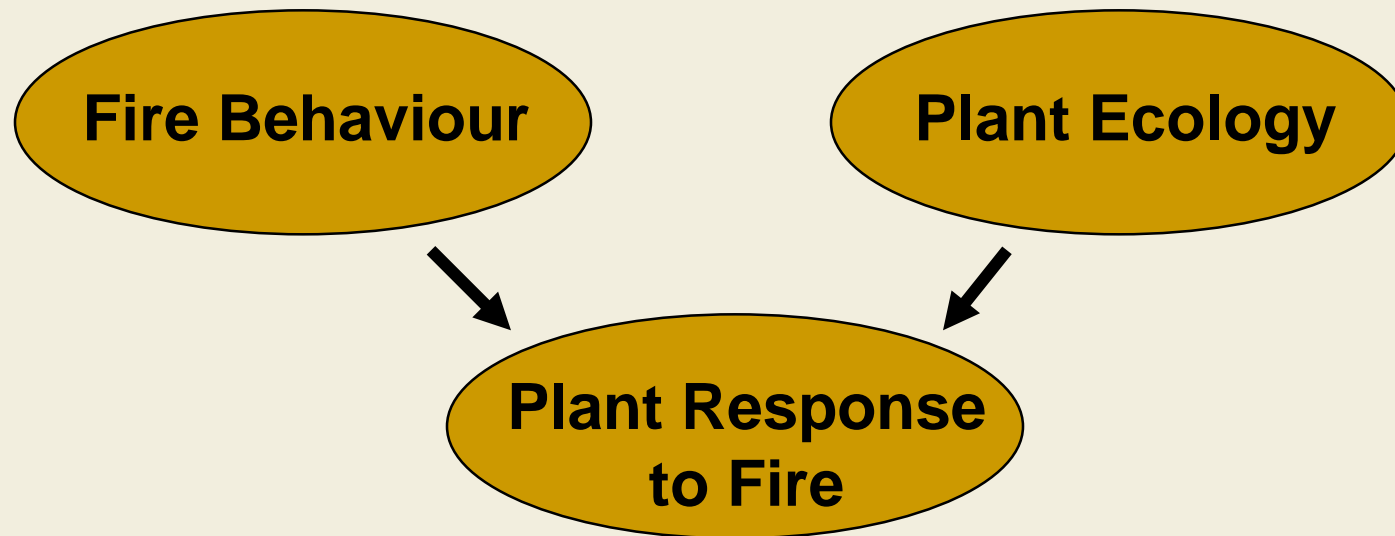
Physical Effects – crown scorch, depth of burn, smoke/emissions

Ecological effects – mortality, regeneration, species composition, post-fire growth





Simulating interaction of fire and plant ecology (fire ecology)





Fire influences the successional trajectory through its effect on plant survival, regeneration, and post-fire growth response.





Plant Vital Attribute Approach (Noble and Slatyer 1980)

- 1. Method of regeneration and reproduction.**
- 2. Ability to establish and grow.**
- 3. Time of critical life stages.**





Plant vital attributes

	<i>Pinus banksiana</i> Jack Pine	<i>Picea mariana</i> Black Spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i> White Spruce	<i>Populus tremuloides</i> Aspen	<i>Betula papyrifera</i> White Birch	<i>Abies balsamea</i> Balsam Fir
Regeneration Method	Canopy-stored seed	Canopy-stored seed	Unstored Seed	Root Suckers	Root Collar Sprouts	Unstored Seed
Fire Resistance	Moderate	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
Seasonal Fire Effect	None	None	Self-seeds only after Autumn fire	Re-sprouts only after Leaf-flush	Re-sprouts only after Leaf-flush	None
Reproductive Age	20-120 yrs	15-200 yrs	25-250 yrs	5-110 yrs	15-110 yrs	20-140 yrs
Shade Tolerance	Intolerant	Tolerant	Tolerant	Intolerant	Intolerant	Tolerant





CanFIRE Applications

Prescribed Burning

- Detailed fuels data provide more accurate estimation of fire behaviour
- Natural or disturbed stands of any composition
- Use to determine prescription window based on fire behaviour or fire effects criteria



► \ **Introduction** / Input / Output / Intermediate calculations / Notes /

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	
1	CANFIRE-Excel v1.1 Model					= required input											
2	Release date:					= optional input											
3	April 6, 2009					= alternative A	Must fill in either A or B alternatives										
4						= alternative B											
5																	
6	Location data				FWI System data			Standing Timber Fuel Types (Conifer, Deciduous, Mixedwood)									
7	Area burned (ha)				20	FFMC =			Stand stocking (0.1-1.0):								
8	Latitude (N)				50	DMC =											
9	Longitude (W)				118	DC =											
10	Elevation (m)				200	ISI =											
11						BUI =											
12						FWI =											
13																	
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16																	
17	Ground and Surface Fuel data																
18																	
19	Forest floor depth (cm):				15												
20																	
21	Forest Floor fuel load (kg/m2):																
22	Litter, moss, lichen				0.4												
23	Duff - Fern.				1.7												
24	Duff - Humus				0.6												
25																	
26	Dead woody debris fuel loads (kg/m2):																
27	0-1 cm				0.1												
28	1-3 cm				0.2												
29	3-5 cm				0.4												
30	5-7 cm				0.5												
31	0-7 cm total				1.2												
32	MWD (0-7 cm)																
33	CWD (7cm+)				0.8												
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48																	
49																	
50																	

Season of burn data				For Grass (0-1) fuel type only:				For Slash (S) fuel types only:	
Julian date of burn:				180	Fuel load (kg/m2):				% composition
Aspen leaf flush				135	Degree of curing (%):				Jack pine
Aspen leaf-fall				273	Matted (%):				Bl spruce
Understory spring greenup				146	Standing (%):				Wh spruce
									Balsam fir
Tree condition				2					BC Coastal
Understory condition				2					Total
									0

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
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Legend:

- = required input
- = optional input
- = alternative A
- = alternative B

Must fill in either A or B alternatives

FWI System data		Standing Timber Fuel Types (Conifer, Deciduous, Mixedwood)									
FFMC =		Stand stocking (0.1-1.0):		1							
DMC =		Species	% Dead balsam fir (%)	Proportion of stand	Age (yrs)	Site class 50 yr Ht (m)	DBH (cm)	Ht (m)	Density (#/ha)	Live crown base height (m)	
DC =	370	Jack pine		60	20	14					
ISI =	7	Black Spruce		40	10	13					
BUI =	85	White Spruce									
FWI =		Aspen									
		White Birch									
		Balsam fir (live)									
		Dead balsam fir MW									
		Total stand		100							

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Understory spring greenup	146	Standing (%):		Wh spruce	
				Balsam fir	
Tree condition	2			BC Coastal	
Understory condition	2			Total	0

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								Balsam fir	
Tree condition								BC Coastal	
Understory condition								Total	
								0	

Location data	
Area burned (ha)	20
Latitude (N)	50
Longitude (W)	118
Elevation (m)	200

FWI System data	
FFMC =	
DMC =	
DC =	370
ISI =	7
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% composition	
Jack pine	
Bl spruce	
Wh spruce	
Balsam fir	
BC Coastal	
Total	0

bdegroot:
Only fill in data for species that are
present in the stand

Standing Timber Fuel Types (Conifer, Deciduous, Mixedwood)

Stand stocking (0.1-1.0): 1

Species	% Dead balsam fir	Proportion of stand (%)	Age (yrs)	Site class 50 yr Ht (m)	DBH (cm)	Ht (m)	Density (#/ha)	Live crown base height (m)
Jack pine		60	20	14				
Black Spruce		40	10	13				
White Spruce								
Aspen								
White Birch								
Balsam fir (live)								
Dead balsam fir MW								
Total stand		100						

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12						FWI =				Site class							
13										50 yr Ht (m)							
14										DBH (cm)							
15										Ht (m)							
16										Density (#/ha)							
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19	Forest floor depth (cm):				15												
20																	
21	Forest Floor fuel load (kg/m2):																
22	Litter, moss, lichen				0.4												
23	Duff - Fern.				1.7												
24	Duff - Humus				0.6												
25																	
26	Dead woody debris fuel loads (kg/m2):																
27	0-1 cm				0.1												
28	1-3 cm				0.2												
29	3-5 cm				0.4												
30	5-7 cm				0.5												
31	0-7 cm total				1.2												
32	MWD (0-7 cm)																
33	CWD (7cm+)				0.8												
34																	
35																	
36																	
37																	
38																	
39																	
40																	
41																	
42																	
43																	
44																	
45																	
46																	
47																	
48																	
49																	
50																	

Season of burn data	
Julian date of burn:	180
Aspen leaf flush	135
Aspen leaf-fall	273
Understory spring greenup	146
Tree condition	2
Understory condition	2

For Grass (0-1) fuel type only:	
Fuel load (kg/m2):	
Degree of curing (%):	
Matted (%):	
Standing (%):	

For Slash (S) fuel types only:	
% composition	
Jack pine	
Bl spruce	
Wh spruce	
Balsam fir	
BC Coastal	
Total	0

For Grass (0-1) fuel type only:	
Fuel load (kg/m ²):	
Degree of curing (%):	
Matted (%):	
Standing (%):	

For Slash (S) fuel types only:	
	% composition
Jack pine	
Bl spruce	
Wh spruce	
Balsam fir	
BC Coastal	
Total	0

f_x Ready

Ground and Surface Fuel data		
<i>Forest floor depth (cm):</i>		
<i>Forest Floor fuel load (kg/m²):</i>		
Litter, moss, lichen		
Duff - Ferm.		
Duff - Humus		
<i>Dead woody debris fuel loads (kg/m²):</i>		
0-1 cm		
1-3 cm		
3-5 cm		
5-7 cm		
MWD (0-7 cm)		
CWD (7 cm+)		

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P					
1	CANFIRE-Excel v1.1 Model																				
2	Release date:																				
3	April 6, 2009																				
4																					
5																					
6	Location data				FWI System data				Standing Timber Fuel Types (Conifer, Deciduous, Mixedwood)												
7	Area burned (ha)				20	FFMC =				Stand stocking (0.1-1.0):											
8	Latitude (N)				50	DMC =				Species											
9	Longitude (W)				118	DC =				Species				% Dead	Proportion	Age	Site class	DBH	Ht	Density	Live crown
10	Elevation (m)				200	ISI =				Species				balsam fir	(%)	(%)	(m)	(cm)	(m)	(#/ha)	(m)
11						BUI =				Species											
12						FWI =				Species											
13										Jack pine					60	20	14				
14										Black Spruce					40	10	13				
15										White Spruce											
16										Aspen											
17	Ground and Surface Fuel data								White Birch												
18									Balsam fir (live)												
19	Forest floor depth (cm):				15					Dead balsam fir MW											
20																					
21	Forest Floor fuel load (kg/m2):								Total stand					100							
22	Litter, moss, lichen				0.4																
23	Duff - Fern.				1.7																
24	Duff - Humus				0.6																
25																					
26	Dead woody debris fuel loads (kg/m2):																				
27	0-1 cm				0.1																
28	1-3 cm				0.2																
29	3-5 cm				0.4																
30	5-7 cm				0.5																
31	0-7 cm total				1.2																
32	MWD (0-7 cm)																				
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34																					
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Season of burn data	
Julian date of burn:	180
Aspen leaf flush	135
Aspen leaf-fall	273
Understory spring greenup	146
Tree condition	2
Understory condition	2

For Grass (0-1) fuel type only:	
Fuel load (kg/m2):	
Degree of curing (%):	
Matted (%):	
Standing (%):	

For Slash (S) fuel types only:	
	% composition
Jack pine	
Bl spruce	
Wh spruce	
Balsam fir	
BC Coastal	
Total	0

Season of burn data		
Julian date of burn:		180
Aspen leaf flush		135
Aspen leaf-fall		273
Understory spring greenup		146
Tree condition		2
Understory condition		2

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
1	CANFIRE-Excel v1.1 Model																
2	Release date:																
3	April 6, 2009																
4			Fire behaviour summary														
5																	
6			Surface fuel consumption (kg/m2)			ROS	Surface	Crown	Crown	Total	Final	Depth					
7			Forest floor	Dead	Total	(m/min)	HFI	fire?	FC	FC	HFI	of Burn					
8			(cured grass	woody	surface		kW/m	1=yes	kg/m2	kg/m2	(kW/m)	(cm)					
9			and LFH)	debris				0=no									
10																	
11			3.18	1.07	4.25	11.9	7894	1	0.64	4.89	10063	5.9					
12																	
13																	
14			Fuel Consumption (kg/m2)														
15																	
16		Surface		Flaming	Smouldering	Total											
17			Grass	0.00	0.00	0.00											
18			Litter	1.90	0.10	2.00											
19			Upper Duff	0.10	0.90	1.00											
20			Lower Duff	0.00	0.18	0.18											
21			Total FF	2.00	1.18	3.18											
22																	
23			DWD, Slash	0.21	0.85	1.07											
24			Total Surface	2.21	2.04	4.25											
25																	
26		Crown	Jack pine	0.61	0.03	0.64											
27			Bl. spruce	0.00	0.00	0.00											
28			Wh. spruce	0.00	0.00	0.00											
29			Aspen	0.00	0.00	0.00											
30			Wh. Birch	0.00	0.00	0.00											
31			Balsam fir	0.00	0.00	0.00											
32			Dead Balsam fir	0.00	0.00	0.00											
33			Total crown	0.61	0.03	0.64											
34																	
35		Total		2.82	2.07	4.89											
36																	
37																	
38		Medium Woody Debris total:		1.1													
39		Coarse Woody Debris total:		2													
40																	
41																	
42																	
43																	
44																	
45																	
46																	
47																	
48																	

Fire behaviour summary									
Surface fuel consumption (kg/m ²)			ROS	Surface	Crown	Crown	Total	Final	Depth
Forest floor	Dead	Total	(m/min)	HFI	fire?	FC	FC	HFI	of Burn
(cured grass	woody	surface		kW/m	1=yes	kg/m ²	kg/m ²	(kW/m)	(cm)
and LFH)	debris				0=no				
3.18	1.07	4.25	11.9	7894	1	0.64	4.89	10063	5.9

	Fuel Consumption (kg/m2)			
Surface		Flaming	Smouldering	Total
	Grass	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Litter	1.90	0.10	2.00
	Upper Duff	0.10	0.90	1.00
	Lower Duff	0.00	0.18	0.18
	Total FF	2.00	1.18	3.18
	DWD, Slash	0.21	0.85	1.07
	Total Surface	2.21	2.04	4.25
Crown	Jack pine	0.61	0.03	0.64
	Bl. spruce	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Wh. spruce	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Aspen	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Wh. Birch	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Balsam fir	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Dead Balsam fir	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total crown	0.61	0.03	0.64
Total		2.82	2.07	4.89
	Medium Woody Debris total:	1.1		
	Coarse Woody Debris total:	2		

Emissions Rate (t/ha)					Total Emissions (tonnes)
Emission species	Forest floor	DWD	Crown	Total	
Total C	15.90	5.34	3.20	24.44	488.9
PM (100)	0.43	0.17	0.08	0.68	13.5
PM10	0.29	0.12	0.05	0.46	9.2
PM2.5	0.24	0.10	0.04	0.38	7.6
CO	2.13	0.99	0.31	3.43	68.6
CO2	38.70	12.46	8.03	59.20	1184.0
CH4	0.09	0.05	0.01	0.16	3.1
NMHC	0.11	0.05	0.02	0.17	3.5

Fire ecology summary

Species	Tree Mortality (%)	Potential Seedlings (#/ha)	Actual Regen (#/ha)	Potential Sprouts
Jack pine	100	4222	4222	
Bl spruce	100	11016	11016	
Wh spruce	100	1381	1381	
Aspen	100		10610	13724
Wh birch	100	1278	1555	277
Balsam fir	100	0	0	

Wh Spruce seed ripe?

1



CanFIRE Inputs

Stand data:

- Species composition
- Age
- Forest floor fuel load
- Dead woody debris fuel load
- FWI System values

(Optional: site class, DBH, ht, density, forest floor depth)





CanFIRE Outputs

Fire behaviour:

- ROS, fuel consumption, head fire intensity

Immediate fire effects:

- Mortality rate, crown scorch
- Forest floor depth of burn
- Emissions rates
- Regeneration species and density

Long-term changes:

- Post-fire succession (seedling establishment and competition)
- Landscape - fire regime dynamics



Canadian Fire Effects Model - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.glf.c.forestry.ca/canfire-feucan/f001.cfm

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Canadian Fire Effects Model

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Canada

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CFS Home > CANFIRE home > Form 1

Canadian Forest Service (CFS)

CFS Home

Home

New stand

Proactive Disclosure

Proactive Disclosure

CANFIRE

Required fields have a * next to them.

Number of Species in stand: 1 *

Provincial Growth & Yield Equation Source: Alberta *

Stand Area: Ha *

Stand Stocking: Default is 1.0

DC Value: *

ISI Value: *

BUI Value: *

Forest Floor Depth (cm): *

Fuel Loads (kg/m²)

Grass, Litter, Lichen, and Moss: *

Upper Duff: *

Lower Duff: *

CWD 7+ cm: *

MWD 0-7 cm: * [Split](#)

continue

Done

Internet 100%



Natural Resources
Canada

Ressources naturelles
Canada

Canada