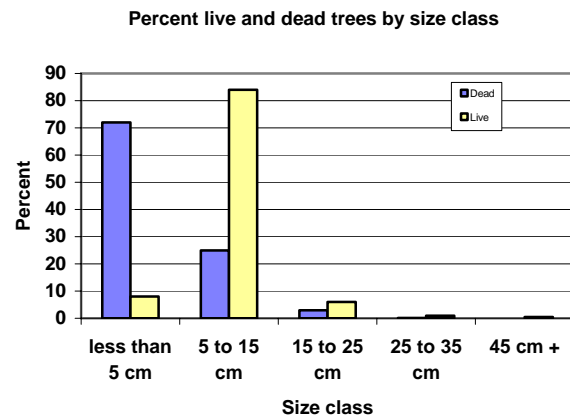
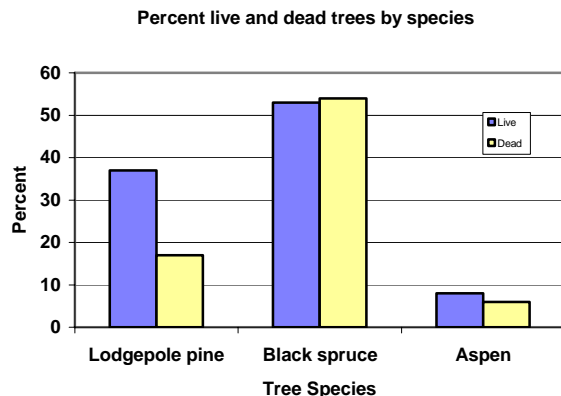


What happens after the fire?

Considerable effort has gone into describing natural disturbance patterns at landscape and meso scales. And while they are an important part of the natural disturbance pattern puzzle, the puzzle is incomplete without information on patterns at the stand scale. In this Quicknote, we will look at what we know about natural disturbance patterns in stands.

The first logical question is “what survives the fire?” Are certain species more likely to survive? Are larger trees more likely to survive? We found that Lodgepole pine tended to survive fire. We also found that larger trees are more likely to survive but that location (riparian or upland) had no effect.



The next logical question is “what happens to these trees that survive?” We know from the Virginia Hills and Dogrib Fires that **coarse woody debris recruitment is slow**. In the Dogrib Fire, only 8% of the CWD we sampled was created within 2 years of the fire and in the Virginia Hills, only 16% of the CWD we sampled was created within 3 years of the fire. There appears to be no relationship between CWD recruitment and decay class or size. However, we do know that CWD generated after a fire is likely to be suspended off the ground.



Post fire residual material patterns provide another piece of the puzzle in the study of natural patterns. We have excellent information on landscape and meso scale disturbance patterns and now we can complement that with an understanding of patterns at the stand scale.

For more information on this or other ND Quicknotes, please contact: Dr. David Andison, Bandaloop Landscape Ecosystem Services, Tel.: (604) 939 – 0830, Email: andison@bandaloop.ca, or visit www.fmf.ab.ca