

A Primer on Natural Disturbance Approaches to Forest Land Management Planning

A Three Day Short Course

Interest in using natural disturbance patterns to help guide forest land management decision-making is growing rapidly. The appeal is understandable. Not only do natural disturbance patterns represent coarse biological filters, but they also relate to that which we truly manage – the timing, amount, severity and spatial arrangement of disturbances. However, despite the conceptual attraction, there is little or no agreement on the particulars. There are many different versions of how, when, by what means, or even to what degree natural disturbance approaches should, or could, be used. Are individual natural patterns simply new tools for forest management? Does a package of natural patterns represent a new management system with which to achieve SFM? Or does the idea of moving to a natural pattern foundation represent a new way of thinking that has the potential to be a new framework for all land management activities?

This course, within the context of past and current forest land management systems, will

- provide a common foundation for understanding the conceptual underpinnings of a natural disturbance (ND)
- identify and assess different ways of translating the theory of natural disturbance approaches into practice
- use case studies and hands-on group exercise

By the end of the course, each participant should be able to unambiguously describe the current reality, and the future potential, of adopting a natural pattern approach within their organization in such a way that everyone else understands.

This is the first in a series of three courses on natural pattern approaches.

Who Should Take This Course?

- professionals involved in land management practices, planning, or policy-making interested in learning more about how a ND approach might be integrated into forest land management in Canada
- professionals involved in forest management, wildlife, energy, utilities, mining, agriculture, forest protection, and parks agencies.



Who are the Instructors?

Tentatively:

- **Dr. David Andison** - Bandaloop Landscape Ecosystem Services,
- **Mike Demyen** - Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology.
- **Margarete Donnelly** – Donnelly Consulting
- **Dr. Brad Hawkes** – Canadian Forestry Service, Pacific Forestry Centre

Delivery Location:

June 12-14 – Edmonton, Alberta CRN 04-1272
The Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel

***The Foothills Model Forest and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
are sponsoring the full cost of the first offering of this course.***

How to Register: **Call SIAST Woodland Campus @ 953-7110 or 1-866-467-4278
and ask for Karla.** Please quote Course Registration Number
(CRN) when registering.

Accommodations

Edmonton, Alberta – rooms held until May 12, 2007

The Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel Phone: 1- 800-663-1144
10155 – 105th Street Fax: (780) 425-5882
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1E2
Reference Number: CEP-FC5040



Course Outline

Day 1

- 8:30 – 9:00 Introductions & Expectations
9:00 – 9:45 Understanding How We Make Land Management Decisions
BREAK
10:15– 1:00 Historical Perspectives on Land Management Paradigms
11:00–noon A Critical Review of SFM Today (group exercise)
LUNCH
1:00 – 1:30 Theory Behind the Natural Disturbance Approach
1:30 – 2:00 What is a Disturbance Regime?
2:00 – 2:30 How Might an ND Approach be Applied in Practice?
BREAK
3:00 – 3:45 The Pros and Cons of an ND Approach (group exercise)
3:45 – 4:00 “Parking Lot” Discussion

Day 2

- 8:30 – 9:00 Revisit / Discuss Material from Day 1.
9:00 – 10:00 Comparing Natural to Cultural Disturbance Patterns (group exercise)
BREAK
10:30 – noon Case Studies: Concept vs. Practice (group exercise)
LUNCH
1:00 – 1:30 How Do we Get There?
1:30 – 2:30 Data & Knowledge Requirements (group exercise)
BREAK
3:00 – 3:45 The ND Approach vs. Traditional Approaches (group exercise)
3:45 – 4:00 “Parking Lot” Discussion

Day 3

- 8:30 – 9:00 Revisit / Discuss Material from Day 1 and 2.
9:00 – 10:00 Design Your Own NDA Plan (group exercise)
BREAK
10:30 – noon Design Your Own NDA Plan – con’t (group exercise)
LUNCH
1:00 – 2:30 Presentations and Discussions of the NDA Plans
BREAK
3:00 – 3:30 Review “Parking Lot”, Next Steps, and Course Feedback.

