Investigating the use of fire as a regenerative tool under recently killed jack pine stands in Northeastern Alberta.

Maria Sharpe\(^1\), Soung Ryu\(^1\), Victor Lieffers\(^1\), and Dave Schroeder\(^2\)

\(^1\)Department of Renewable Resources, University of Alberta  
\(^2\)Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

Abstract

Mountain pine beetle (Dendroctonus ponderosae) is increasingly apparent in the pine (Pinus sp.) forests of western North America. Much of these forests face challenges in their ability to regenerate naturally in the absence of fire. Fire has long been studied as a natural driver of serotinous pine ecosystems; a stimulus to release seed and provide suitable seedbed for germination. The question is: what type of fire intensity do these forest types require to regenerate and are they different than that of a living pine stand? The results of this study will determine whether burning is an effective regenerative option in standing dead pine forests of Alberta and will provide forest and fire managers with fire intensity thresholds.

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