Mountain Pine Beetle Ecology Program

RESEARCH FLASH

Forests, Insects, and Fire: Forecasting with MPB-SpaDES

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2019
8:30AM – 4:30PM
Aurora Room, Lister Conference Centre, University of Alberta

AGENDA

7:45am – 8:30am  Registration and Breakfast

8:30am – 9:00am  Introduction and Welcome, Keith McClain, fRI Research MPBEP Lead

9:00am – 9:30am  Managing for Healthy Forests: The Relevance of Current Research, Caroline Whitehouse

9:30am – 10:00am Introduction of the Day’s Agenda and Moderator, Keith McClain

10:00am – 10:30am REFRESHMENT BREAK

10:30am – 11:15am Grappling with Monumental Surprise: Uncertainty and Forest Management in the 21st Century, Barry Cooke

11:15am – 12:00pm Science-Inspired Management Under a Cumulative Effects Paradigm in a Changing World: What is This SpaDES Platform?, Eliot McIntire

12:00pm – 1:00pm  LUNCH BREAK

1:00pm – 2:15pm  Facing the Tree-Slayer: Forecasting Mountain Pine Beetle Spatial Spread in SpaDES, Alex Chubaty

2:15pm – 2:45pm  REFRESHMENT BREAK

2:45pm – 3:30pm  Deploying the Tools for Effective Decision Support, David Andison

3:30pm – 4:00pm  Open Discussion

4:00pm – 4:30pm  Concluding Remarks and Wrap-up, Eliot McIntire and Keith McClain
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Speaker Bios

Dr. Keith McClain
Program Lead, Mountain Pine Beetle Ecology Program, fRI Research
Keith is a Registered Professional Forester and has worked in the realm of forest science for nearly 45 years. He has spent the majority of his career working in government in Ontario (OMNR), British Columbia (CFS) and Alberta (SRD). He has spent considerable time as an independent science consultant. Presently, Keith is Program Lead for the fRI Research MPB Ecology Program, a role which allows him to focus on linking scientists with practitioners and encouraging the use of science to inform resource decisions and to support policy development. Keith has Bachelor and Masters Degrees from the University of Toronto and a PhD from Oregon State University.

Caroline Whitehouse
Forest Health Specialist, Forest Health and Adaptation Section, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Caroline is a Forest Health Specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. She works as part of an interdisciplinary team of scientific and resource specialists to develop and deliver comprehensive forest health scientific programming in forest insects, diseases, and climate change. She started with the Government of Alberta as a Forest Health Officer working in the Peace River and High Level Forest Areas and moved back to Edmonton to start in her current role in fall, 2015. Prior to joining the government she worked at the University of Alberta as a Research Technician in a lab focused on the ecology of insect pests such as mountain pine beetle and forest tent caterpillar. She obtained a Bachelor of Science in Ecology from the University of Alberta. Her Masters in Environmental Sciences was focused on the reproductive biology of a cone-feeding insect pest.

Dr. Eliot McIntire
Research Scientist, Pacific Forestry Centre, Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada
Eliot McIntire received his PhD in Forest Ecology at University of British Columbia and was a Postdoc in wildlife biology at University of Montana. He held the Canada Research Chair in Conservation Biology at Université Laval, and is currently a research scientist with the Canadian Forest Service. Starting his career as a quantitative and spatial ecologist, he worked on plants, trees, fires, insects, and mammals. More recently, his work has moved to ecological forecasting and integration so that the complex applied problems of today can be based in the best available data and science.
Dr. Barry Cooke
Research Scientist, Great Lakes Forestry Centre, Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada
Barry comes to us from the Canadian Forest Service, Great Lakes Forestry Centre in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Barry's graduate degrees, from Laval and Alberta, in the 1990s were focused on the population dynamics of spruce budworm and forest tent caterpillar. In 2001 he started his career with the Forest Service in Quebec City, and moved to Alberta in 2005 to start working on the freshly invasive mountain pine beetle. A decade later he’s now back to his home province of Ontario, continuing his work on the comparative dynamics of bark beetles and defoliators.

Dr. Alex Chubaty
Spatial Modelling Coordinator, Healthy Landscapes Program, fRI Research
Alex Chubaty is an ecologist and simulation modeller developing landscape-level models of insect dispersal and forest disturbance. He completed his PhD in Biological Sciences at Simon Fraser University and went on to complete a Post Doc through Université Laval, working with Eliot McIntire at the Pacific Forestry Centre in Victoria, BC. He currently works with fRI Research on the Healthy Landscapes LandWeb project and is coauthor of several R packages, including SpaDES, which he co-developed for large scale spatial simulations and analyses.

Dr. David Andison
Principal, Bandaloop Landscape-Ecosystem Services, and Program Lead, Healthy Landscapes Program, fRI Research
David Andison received his PhD at UBC Faculty of Forestry understanding historical landscape dynamics through modelling. Since then, he has worked as a consultant across the country focusing on understanding and modelling wildfires, biodiversity, and creating tools to integrate science into practice and policy. Most of his time over the last few years has been spent as the Program Lead for the Healthy Landscapes Program at fRI Research.