

Climate-Disturbance Interactions in Boreal Forest Ecosystems

**12th International Boreal Forest Research Association Conference
3-6 May 2004, Fairbanks, Alaska**

(For up to date information visit <http://www.lter.uaf.edu/IBFRA/default.cfm>)

The Bonanza Creek Long Term Ecological Research Program and the International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA) announce an international science conference on “Climate-Disturbance Interactions in Boreal Forest Ecosystems” to be held in Fairbanks, Alaska 3 - 6 May 2004 at the Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge.

Background

The boreal forest, which is the second most extensive terrestrial biome on earth, represents a wood resource of global significance that is an important part of the cultural and economic wealth of northern countries. During the relatively brief (10,000 yr) history of the boreal forest in its current location, it has experienced radical changes in climate, vegetation, and fauna. Warming during the last 30 years has been associated with warming and melting of permafrost, changes in growth rates of dominant trees, increased area burned, insect outbreaks, and changes in vertebrate populations. The causal links among these changes and their implications for the functioning of the boreal forest and the people who inhabit this region are not completely understood. The structure and functioning of the boreal forest determines and is influenced by its disturbance regime. Fire, insect outbreaks, timber harvest, and flooding are important disturbances. The extent and distribution of these disturbances are changing rapidly as climate warms, human populations grow, and socioeconomic conditions change. To understand the current and future structure, diversity, and functioning of the boreal forest, it is important to understand how climate and disturbance interact and the implications of these interactions for ecological, economic, and cultural sustainability of the boreal forest.

Objectives

The objectives of the 12th IBFRA Conference are:

- To present and discuss the current scientific understanding of climate-disturbance interactions in the circumboreal region.
- To discuss the unique ecological, economic, and social conditions that influence management decisions regarding disturbance, climate change impacts, and adaptation to climate change in the boreal region,
- To bring a circumpolar perspective to research initiatives, and
- To foster cooperation and an exchange of ideas among countries in the circumpolar boreal forest.

9 to 10 am	Opening of Conference (McGuire and others)
10 to 10:30 am	Coffee Break
10:30 am to noon	Controls over Disturbance Regime I: Contemporary Analyses (Fukuda and Chapin)
Noon to 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 to 3:00 pm	Controls over Disturbance Regime II: Long-term Perspectives (Chapin and Fukuda)
3 to 3:30 pm	Coffee Break
3:30 to 5 pm	Responses to Climate I: Historical/Spatial Perspectives (Vaganov and Wirth)
5 to 7 pm	Dinner
7 to 9 pm	Poster Session for Days 1 and 2 Themes
Tuesday, 4 May	
8:30 to 10 am	Responses to Climate II: Stand-level Perspectives (Linder and Wirth)
10 to 10:30 am	Coffee Break
10:30 am to noon	Responses to Climate III: Landscape-level Perspectives (Linder and Apps)
Noon to 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 to 3 pm	Responses to Structure and Demography to Disturbance (Wirth and Schulze)
3 to 3:30 pm	Coffee Break
3:30 to 5 pm	Responses of Carbon Dynamics to Disturbance I (Schulze and Vaganov)
5 to 7 pm	Dinner
7 to 9 pm	Poster Session for Days 3 and 4 Themes
Wednesday, 5 May	
8:30 to 10 am	Responses of Carbon Dynamics to Disturbance II (Conard and Karjalainen)
10 to 10:30 am	Coffee Break
10:30 am to noon	Management of the Boreal Forest (Karjalainen and Conard)
Noon to 5 pm	Afternoon Tours
6 to 7 pm	Pre-banquet Mixer
7 to 10 pm	Optional Banquet
Thursday, 6 May	
8:30 to 10 am	Regional and Global Implications for the Climate System I (Shvidenko and McGuire)
10 to 10:30 am	Coffee Break
10:30 am to noon	Regional and Global Implications for the Climate System II (McGuire and Shvidenko)

Noon to 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 to 3 pm	Biodiversity of the Boreal Forest (Apps and Chapin)
3 to 3:30 pm	Coffee Break
3:30 to 5 pm	Sustainability of the Boreal Forest (Chapin and Apps)
5 to 5:30 pm	Closing of Conference (McGuire)
5:30 pm	Adjournment

Friday, 7 May Departures and Post-conference Tours

Instructions for Presenters

Each session begins with a keynote presentation (25 minutes presentation, 5 minutes for questions), followed by three oral presentations (15 minutes presentation, 5 minute for question). We ask that all presenters download their presentation onto one conference computer to allow for smooth transitions between talks. Poster sizes should not exceed 4 feet by 4 feet (1.20 m by 1.20 m). We will provide thumbtacks.

Costs

Early Registration Fee (through April 1)	\$275 US
Registration (after April 1, 2004)	\$400 US
Wednesday evening dinner banquet with guest speaker (optional)	\$25 US

NOTES:

1. 50% discount for students with current, valid ID
2. Those not wishing to register for the entire conference may attend on a \$100 per day basis.
3. Students willing to work for further reduced conference fee should contact Nancy Fresco (ftnlf@uaf.edu)

The conference fee covers conference attendance, one afternoon tour, food at receptions, and one copy of the Abstract Book.

Monika Calef
 Conference Coordinator IBFRA 2004
 fnmpc@uaf.edu