

Loss of Ecological Resilience in Canada's Boreal Forest in the Face of Wildfire



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Remote seminar, broadcast via Zoom and in GE 110

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Wildfire is the main disturbance in boreal forests and is critical for boreal forest renewal and functioning. However, climate warming and drying have led to an intensification of wildfire disturbance in boreal forests, which includes increased frequency and severity of wildfire and increasing annual area burned. More extreme wildfire has the potential to profoundly alter key functions of boreal forests, with direct implications at local to global scales. In this seminar, we will explore how a “megafire” year in the Northwest Territories, Canada impacted various aspects of ecological resilience including vegetation recovery, permafrost conditions, soil fungal communities, and carbon stocks. We will also investigate generalities in some of these processes through data synthesis efforts from across boreal North America.