

WILDFIRES, CLIMATE CHANGE AND INVASIVE SPECIES CONFERENCE AGENDA
(As of November 15th, 2024)

Virtual Event Date: November 19th, 2024, Times are displayed in Eastern Standard Time

WELCOME

- 11:00 am** **Welcome Address**
- 11:10 am** **Indigenous Welcome and Land Acknowledgement**
Joe Gilchrist, Elder Firekeeper (Skeetchestn Indian Band)
- 11:20 am** **Keynote Address**
Indigenous Fire Stewardship
Dr. Amy Cardinal Christianson, Policy Advisor, Indigenous Leadership Initiative

BROAD PERSPECTIVES – WILDFIRE, CLIMATE CHANGE AND INVASIVE SPECIES

- 12:00 pm** **Climate Change and Wildfires in Canada – A Hot and Smoky Future?**
Dr. Mike Flannigan, BC Innovation Research Chair in Predictive Services, Emergency Management and Fire Science, Faculty of Science, Thompson Rivers University
- 12:30 pm** **The Impacts of Climate Change on Ontario's Boreal Forest, Fire, and Invasive Species**
Dr. Hiromitsu Sato, Researcher, Ontario Forest Research Institute, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Stephen J. Mayor, Researcher, Ontario Forest Research Institute, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- 12:50 pm** **Shifting Fire Regimes in Northern Canada and Associated Vegetation Changes**
Ellen Whitman, Forest Fire Research Scientist, Natural Resources Canada
- 1:10 pm** **Rethinking Invasive Species Prevention and EDRR Associated with Wildland Fire Suppression Operations**
Mike Ielmini, National Invasive Species Program Leader, U.S. Forest Service

1:30 pm **BREAK**

INVASIVE SPECIES, FIRE BEHAVIOUR AND ECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATIONS

- 1:40 pm** **Non-native Plant Invasions and Altered Fire Regimes: A National Wildland Fire and Invasive Species Management Conundrum**
Michele Crist, Landscape Ecologist, Bureau of Land Management, Fire and Aviation Directorate National Interagency Fire Center
- 2:00 pm** **Consequences of Invasive Grasses and Wildfire on Carbon Storage**
Chelsea Nagy, Research Scientist, University of Colorado Boulder
- 2:20 pm** **Post-fire Vulnerability of Boreal Ecosystems to Non-native Plant Invasion in the Northwest Territories**
Claire Singer, Wildlife Biologist (Biodiversity), Government of the Northwest Territories/PhD candidate, Saint Mary's University

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2:40 pm **Building Consistent and Proactive Invasive Species Policy and Management.**
Dr. Evelyn Beury, Assistant Curator, Centre for Conservation & Restoration Ecology, The New York Botanical Garden

3:00 pm **LUNCH/BREAK**

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session 1: Restoration and Plant Recovery Post Fire	Session 2: Regional Case Studies - Fire Behaviour and Risk Mitigation
3:20 pm Restoration to Increase Forest Diversity and Stall Grass-fire Cycles in Hawai'i <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stephanie Yelenik, <i>Research Rangeland Scientist, US Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station</i> 	3:20 pm Targeted Grazing and Wildfire Risk Reduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amanda Miller, <i>Senior Conservation Policy Analyst, Government of British Columbia</i>
3:35 pm The Importance of Biocontrol in a Post-Fire Integrated Weed Management Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jennifer Andreas, <i>Professor, Washington State University</i> Joseph Milan, <i>Biological Control Specialist, Bureau of Land Management</i> 	3:35 pm Quantifying the Impacts of Mountain Pine Beetle on Fire Fuels Prior to the Jasper Complex Fire Using Field and Airborne Lidar Data. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Laura Chasmer, <i>Associate Professor, University of Lethbridge</i>
3:50 pm Vegetation Trajectories of Post-wildfire Landscapes on Previously Invaded and Uninvaded Areas Across Differing Burn Severities in the Interior of British Columbia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virginia Oeggerli, <i>Forestry MSc Student, University of British Columbia</i> 	3:50 pm The Impacts of Eastern Spruce Budworm Defoliation on Wildfire Behaviour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kennedy Korkola, <i>PhD Candidate, Wildfire Analytics team, University of Toronto</i>
4:05 pm Q AND A	4:05 pm Q AND A

4:20 pm **BREAK**

Wildfire Management and Invasive Species Strategies

4:30 pm **Fire, Invasive Plants and the Influence of Biological Control on Both in Florida's Everglades**
Dr. Melissa Smith, Research Ecologist, USDA-Agricultural Research Service, Invasive Plant Research Laboratory

4:50 pm **Improving Invasive Plant Prevention and Management Within Wildfire Recovery and Prescribed Fire Programs in British Columbia**
Crystal Chadburn, PAg, Senior Invasive Plant Specialist, BC Ministry of Forests
Kyle Miller, RFT, Provincial Wildfire Rehabilitation Lead, BC Wildfire Service

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5:20 pm **Targeted Grazing for Ecological Management and Fire Fuel Mitigation**
Jenya Schneider, Owner-Operator, Cuyama Lamb LLC

WRAP-UP AND ADJOURN

5:40 pm **Next Steps**

6:00 pm **Wrap up and Adjourn**

The presentation will provide some background on the situation with invasive species and wildfire in the U.S., review priority actions identified by NISC and WFLC, and discuss ongoing and future steps for implementation.