**Wildfire and drought in the past, present and future – How tree rings may be the pages to a story of forest resilience in the face of environmental change**

Wildfire and drought are two important disturbances affecting forests in British Columbia. Forest resilience is challenged by rapidly changing climate conditions and land management practices over the past century. The general absence of wildfire since ~1900 in western North America has led to denser forests and more forest fuels. Globally, megafires are now becoming more common with severe social, economic, and ecological effects. In British Columbia, the record-breaking wildfires in 2017, 2018, 2021, and 2023 burned 6.24 million ha (6.6% of British Columbia). Burning mainly in interior dry and northern forests, these fast-moving and intense wildfires caused high-severity fire effects, even in forests historically maintained by low-severity surface fires (e.g., forest-grassland ecotones). In addition to wildfire, drought is more common. For example, in 2021 western Canada experienced a ‘heat dome’ that lasted for seven days with many areas reaching record breaking temperatures up to 49.6°C. This increase in wildfire severity and drought prompts four ecological questions we will explore: Are wildfires causing more severe ecological effects? Is forest resilience to wildfire and drought compromised? How do wildfire and drought interact to influence regenerating forests? Can forest and fire management practices better promote forest resilience?