



Wildfire Symposium 5-7 October 2026

Hosted by TRU and UNBC

Theme: *Fire in a Changing World*

DRAFT PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Monday, October 5, 2026	
1:00 - 2:00	Registration and Welcome
	Oral Presentations: Fire Prediction and Mapping
2:00 - 2:15	An overview of the Northern Forest Fuels Mapping (NorthForM) Program Jordan McLean
2:15 - 2:30	Wildfire occurrence prediction and burn-potential simulation across Canada Fujia Chang
2:30 - 2:45	A calibrated, interpretable hazard framework for wildfire spread: Applying survival analysis to the 2024 British Columbia fire season Ladan Tazik
2:45 - 3:00	Coffee Break
3:00 - 3:15	Predictive models of fire severity: From complex distribution modelling to machine learning Ceres Barros
3:15 - 3:30	Modelling and understanding wildfire carbon emissions in Canada's boreal forest: From model evaluation to the extreme 2023 fire season Saba Asadolah
3:30 - 3:45	Key advancements and challenges in pyrocumulonimbus research Jessica Dobbin
3:45 - 4:00	Projected changes in wildfire-related climate indicators over the Quesnel Lake Basin, British Columbia (1950–2100) Parvin Ghafarian
4:00 - 4:15	Bio Break
4:15 - 5:15	Plenary Panel: Jasper Recovery Moderator: Jill Harvey



Tuesday, October 6, 2026

8:30 - 9:00	Registration	
9:00 - 9:45	Keynote: Forests to Fire: Who Connects the Dots? Tara Bergeson, Director of Practice at Forest Professionals British Columbia	
9:45 - 10:15	Coffee Break	
	Parallel Oral Presentations: Fire and Forest Management	
10:15 - 10:30	Ruralization of wildland fire in the Pyrocene Sonja Leverkus	Approaches to integrate multiple objectives in fuel treatment planning: A case-study informed by First Nation directives Sarah Monroe Smith-Tripp
10:30 - 10:45	Climate-informed silviculture strategies for post-fire recovery in coastal old growth forests: Variables predicting seedling survival Brendan Oldegbers	Fuel treatment effectiveness in Jasper, Canada Liam Kelly
10:45 - 11:00	Fire severity in BC's managed forests - under what conditions do forestry practices decrease fire impacts? Alana Clason	Turning down the heat: Evaluating wildfire risk reduction treatment efficacy in northern BC Alex Itcush
11:00 - 11:15	A local technology partner for wildfire resilience in the Thompson-Okanagan Musfiq Rahman	Collaborative burning revitalizes ungulate habitat and culturally important plant species in Secwepemcúl'ecw, British Columbia Bianca Gonzalez
11:15 - 1:00	Poster Session + Lunch (Lunch starts at 12:00 pm)	
	Oral Presentations: Wildfire and Tourism	
1:00 - 1:15	Post-fire (phoenix) tourism as a form of dark and restorative ecotourism - Can it be sparked? Zoe Meletis	
1:15 - 1:30	Save the photos and pack the camper: Mapping intersections of wildfire and outdoor recreation Phil Mullins	
1:30 - 1:45	Mountain bikers' wildfire experiences in north-central BC Taryn Atkinson	
1:45 - 2:00	Evaluating tourist interactions and responses in post-wildfire landscapes Flavia Luiza Colla Warmling	
2:00 - 2:20	Coffee Break	



2:20 - 3:20	Panel: FireSmart Tourism in BC: Challenges, Opportunities, and Path Forward Moderator: Mahed Choudhury	
3:20 - 3:30	Bio Break	
	Parallel Panels	
3:30 - 4:30	Wildfire in Non-Metropolitan Communities: Disability, Complex Health Needs, and Unequal Vulnerability Moderator: Amie McLean	Stories of Resilience: The Role of Story in Pre- and Post-Disaster Climate Action Presenter: Brooklyn Rushton (Presentation with interactive activity)
Evening	Social Event at Red Collar Brewing (starting at 5:00 pm)	

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

8:30 - 9:00	Registration
9:00 - 10:00	Plenary Panel: Community Perspectives on Collaborative Fire Research Moderator: Sarah Dickson-Hoyle
10:00 - 10:20	Coffee Break
	Oral Presentations: Wildfire Adaptation and Mitigation
10:20 - 10:35	Wildfire evacuating of older adults: Experiences and lessons learned in Edson, Alberta Mahed Choudhury
10:35 - 10:50	Using UNBCSIM to measure driver behaviour and improve wildfire evacuation modelling Alireza Noory
10:50 - 11:05	Virtual fencing collars for cattle tracking and recovery during wildfire: A case study of the 2026 Bald Range Fire, British Columbia John Church
11:05 - 11:15	Bio Break
11:15 - 11:30	Breathing through the algorithm Pimpira Pettibone
11:30 - 11:45	Public preferences for wildfire adaptation strategies in the wildland-urban interface of British Columbia: Preliminary evidence from a pilot choice experiment Dilshani Ranasinghe
11:45 - 12:00	From forests at risk to forests of opportunity: Reimagining the future of forestry in northeastern BC Danny McNeil



12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
	Oral Presentations: Fire Regime and Climate Change
1:00 - 1:15	Beyond natural disturbance types: A new approach to mapping historical fire regimes Jen Baron
1:15 - 1:30	Forest characteristics in a mixed-severity boreal fire regime: Legacies, landscape, or climate? Anastasia Sniderhan
1:30 - 1:45	Fuel-limited or climate-limited fire regimes: A gradient analysis and implications Phil Burton
1:45 - 2:00	The Beast of Bald Range Don Gayton
2:00 - 2:15	Coffee Break
	Oral Presentations: Fire and Ecology
2:15 - 2:30	Wildfire impacts on surface water quality and eutrophication in Canada: A systematic review and meta-analysis Davood Mahmoodzadeh
2:30 - 2:45	Beyond the green-up: Multi-year vegetation trajectories and persistent soil hydrophobicity following wildfire Virginia Oeggerli
2:45 - 3:00	From non-fire biomass dynamics to wildfire-related biomass exposure: A remote-sensing and machine-learning assessment of eastern Canadian boreal forests Hadi Mahmoudi-Meimand
3:00 - 3:15	Post-wildfire cheatgrass invasion alters soil microbial communities associated with Indigenous food plants Raelani Kesler
3:15 - 3:30	Supporting scalable, data-driven post-wildfire restoration through drone-based remote sensing and deep learning Joyce Chan
3:30 - 3:45	Closing