

Natural disturbance-based silviculture - Managing for complexity

**May 14-23, 2006
Rouyn-Noranda, Québec
Canada**

First Announcement IUFRO 1.14.00 Uneven-aged Silviculture Research Group Conference and Field Tour

Interest in integrating natural forest- and stand-level dynamics into management planning and silvicultural practices has increased in recent years as a result of concerns related to maintaining ecological functions and biodiversity values in managed forests. We are looking for oral and poster presentations dealing with all aspects of uneven-aged silviculture that will contribute to our understanding of stand dynamics and variations in uneven-aged silvicultural practices in all forest biomes including tropical or southern hemisphere forests.

Conference sub-themes may include the following:

- Natural dynamics, biodiversity and implications for uneven-aged silviculture;
- Alternative treatments;
- Tree and stand-level modeling;
- Operations and regulation;
- Regeneration and productivity;
- Ecophysiological studies in tree response to uneven-aged silviculture;
- Forms of uneven-aged management;
- Economic aspects of Uneven-aged silviculture;
- Uneven-aged silvicultural in tropical or southern hemisphere forests.

Rouyn-Noranda (pop. 45,000) is located in the Abitibi region of Québec, a 7 hour drive or 1.25 hour flight northwest from Montreal. It is home to the [Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue](#) and the [NSERC-UQAT-UQAM Industrial Chair in Sustainable Forest Management](#) (SFM Industrial Chair). The southeastern boreal mixedwood forest of the region is characterized by secondary forests of shade intolerant hardwoods (poplar and white birch) and mixed stands containing these species as well as black and white spruce, balsam fir, jack pine, eastern white cedar and eastern larch. Research conducted on natural stand- and forest-level dynamics has formed the basis for alternative "natural disturbance- or cohort-based" management and silvicultural approaches currently being tested in the region. A number of species, such as red and white pine, red and sugar maple and yellow birch are situated close to their northern limits of distribution. Within a two-hour drive to the north is the black spruce- feather moss forest and to the south, shade tolerant hardwoods, and red and white pines constitute part of the forest matrix. Mid-week field trips will visit natural and managed forests and silvicultural trials of alternative treatments to conventional even-aged management. A 3 to 5-day post-conference tour will start in the southern boreal forest and move southward to research sites in the northern hardwood forests of the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence forest region, and possibly extend into the Acadian forest region of Maine.

Conference Information will be posted on the 1.14 Uneven-aged web site (<http://web2.uqat.ca/iufro/>) starting in September 2005.

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