

SIXTH E.V. KOMAREK, SR. MEMORIAL FIRE ECOLOGY LECTURE

FIRE IN CONSERVATION NETS—LOOKING BACK, THINKING AHEAD

Ross W. Wein

Department of Renewable Resources, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB T6G 2E3, Canada



Ross W. Wein
Sixth E.V. Komarek, Sr. Memorial Fire Ecology Lecturer

ABSTRACT

The history of fire research in national parks and other conservation areas has shifted from descriptive studies to predictive studies in the fields of fire ecology and fire behavior in landscapes. Currently there are continuing shifts toward more predictive research for values-at-risk. Most studies in the past were focused within the boundaries of the protected areas, but now with industrialization of landscapes even in remote areas, there are great concerns that fire will cross legal boundaries (few boundaries are ecological) and legal costs will result. As our human populations rise, there are increasing demands for more recreational use of public lands and for more protected areas. In the research fields of conservation biology, there is increasing interest in fire protection for small habitats with unique and rare species within larger fire-prone landscapes. There is also increasing interest in joining these small, protected areas with multiple corridors. Fire management faces special challenges in the protection of these values-at-risk within conservation nets.

Citation: Wein, R.W. 2004. Fire in conservation nets—looking back, thinking ahead [abstract]. Page 1 in R.T. Engstrom, K.E.M. Galley, and W.J. de Groot (eds.). Proceedings of the 22nd Tall Timbers Fire Ecology Conference: Fire in Temperate, Boreal, and Montane Ecosystems. Tall Timbers Research Station, Tallahassee, FL.