

# THE NATURE CONSERVANCY'S FIRE MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH PROGRAM: USING FIRE FOR BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

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## ABSTRACT

The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Fire Management & Research Program coordinates the organization's prescribed fire operations nationwide. From our offices at Tall Timbers Research Station, we oversee prescribed fire activities in the 44 states where burns on Nature Conservancy land are conducted or anticipated. Among our responsibilities are development of standards and guidelines for the organization, which we make available through the *Fire Management Manual*. We offer training to TNC staff and cooperators, including selected National Wildfire Coordinating Group courses, our 8-day Workshop on Ecological Burning, and specialized training to meet the needs of local programs. The Fire Management Program provides information to the Conservancy's network of fire management staff and cooperators on issues related to prescribed burning and fire ecology, and publishes the technical newsletter *Rx Fire Notes*, now available on the Worldwide Web. We also provide scientific and technical advice on designing and implementing ecologically based fire management programs to TNC offices and our partners in conservation.

*Citation:* Seamon, Paula A., Ronald L. Myers, and Susan M. Roe. 1998. The Nature Conservancy's Fire Management and Research Program: using fire for biodiversity management. Page 62 in Teresa L. Pruden and Leonard A. Brennan (eds.). Fire in ecosystem management: shifting the paradigm from suppression to prescription. Tall Timbers Fire Ecology Conference Proceedings, No. 20. Tall Timbers Research Station, Tallahassee, FL.

## APPRECIATION OF FIRE BEHAVIOR IN BOREAL ECOSYSTEMS: TWO NEW INTERPRETIVE AIDS

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## ABSTRACT

In 1995, the Canadian Forest Service published two wall posters related to the Canadian Forest Fire Behavior Prediction (FBP) System, both of which will be displayed during this poster paper presentation. One, jointly produced with the Alaska Division of Forestry entitled "Head Fire Intensity Class Graph for FBP System Fuel Type C-2 (Boreal Spruce)," presents a practical approach for determining one of five possible head fire intensity classes, each illustrated with a representative color photograph, as well as the general type of fire (for instance, surface fire, intermittent crown fire, and continuous fire) and degree of crown fuel involvement. A table accompanying the graph offers additional information on fire potential and management implications. The other, entitled "Fire Behavior in Three Jack Pine Fuel Complexes," highlights some of the progress in experimental burning undertaken in Ontario that contributed to the development of the C-3 (Mature Jack or Lodgepole Pine), C-4 (Immature Jack or Lodgepole Pine), and S-1 (Jack or Lodgepole Pine Logging Slash) fuel types found in the FBP System. Four experimental fires were selected to illustrate the potential range in fire intensity within the fuel complex or type, and in each case two representative color photographs are presented along with the attendant burning conditions and ensuing fire behavior characteristics.

*Citation:* Alexander, Martin E., and Brian J. Stocks. 1998. Appreciation of fire behavior in boreal ecosystems: two new interpretive aids. Page 62 in Teresa L. Pruden and Leonard A. Brennan (eds.). Fire in ecosystem management: shifting the paradigm from suppression to prescription. Tall Timbers Fire Ecology Conference Proceedings, No. 20. Tall Timbers Research Station, Tallahassee, FL.