



Wildfire Symposium 5-7 October 2026

Hosted by TRU and UNBC

Theme: *Fire in a Changing World*

Venue: TRU Conference Centre (CAC), Thompson Rivers University
1055 University Drive, Kamloops, V2C 0C8

DRAFT PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Monday, October 5, 2026 Location: Mountain Room	
12:30 - 7 pm	Registration
1:30 - 2:00	Opening and Welcome Opening: Ted Gottfriedson (Secwépemc Cultural Advisor) Welcome: Tara Duncan, Dinyar Minocher
	Oral Presentations: Fire Prediction and Mapping Chairs: Soodeh Saberian, Jemima Duru
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	Modelling and understanding wildfire carbon emissions in Canada's boreal forest: From model evaluation to the extreme 2023 fire season Saba Asadolah
3:15 - 3:30	Key advancements and challenges in pyrocumulonimbus research Jessica Dobbin
3:30 - 3:45	Projected changes in wildfire-related climate indicators over the Quesnel Lake Basin, British Columbia (1950–2100) Parvin Ghafarian
3:45 - 4:00	Bio Break
4:00 - 5:00	Plenary Panel: Jasper Recovery Moderator/Chair: Jill Harvey
Evening	Social Event: Cash bar and nibbles (starting at 5:15 pm) Location: Mountain Room



Tuesday, October 6, 2026

8:30 - 4:30 pm	Registration	
9:00 - 9:45	Keynote: Forests to Fire: Who Connects the Dots? Tara Bergeson, Director of Practice at Forest Professionals British Columbia Chair: Tara Duncan Location: Mountain Room	
9:45 - 10:15	Coffee Break	
	Parallel Oral Presentations: Fire and Forest Management	
	Chair: Jill Harvey Location: Mountain Room	Chair: Zoe Meletis Location: Terrace Room
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 Posters in the Rotunda Lunch starts at 12:00 pm in the Mountain Room	
	Oral Presentations: Wildfire and Tourism Chair: Patrick Brouder Location: Mountain Room	
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 Chair: Tara Duncan Location: Mountain Room	
3:20 - 3:30	Bio Break	
	Parallel Panels	
	Chair: Tara Duncan Location: Mountain Room	Chair: Mahed Choudhury Location: Terrace Room
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 (Presentation with interactive activity) Presenter: Brooklyn Rushton
Evening	Social Event: Pizza night and cash bar (from 5:00 pm) Location: Red Collar Brewing & Distilling (355 Lansdowne Street)	

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Location: Mountain Room

8:30 - 3:00 pm	Registration
9:00 - 10:00	Plenary Panel: Community Perspectives on Collaborative Fire Research Moderator: Sarah Dickson-Hoyle Chairs: Zoe Meletis, Tara Duncan
10:00 - 10:20	Coffee Break
	Oral Presentations: Wildfire Adaptation and Mitigation Chair: Zoe Meletis
10:20 - 10:35	Wildfire evacuating of older adults: Experiences and lessons learned in Edson, Alberta Mahed Choudhury
10:35 - 10:50	Forest characteristics in a mixed-severity boreal fire regime: Legacies, landscape, or climate? Anastasia Sniderhan



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- 11:20	Public preferences for wildfire adaptation strategies in the wildland–urban interface of British Columbia: Preliminary evidence from a pilot choice experiment Dilshani Ranasinghe
11:20 - 11:35	From forests at risk to forests of opportunity: Reimagining the future of forestry in northeastern BC Danny McNeil
11:35 - 1:00	Poster Session + Lunch Posters on the 1st floor Lunch starts at 12:00 pm in the Mountain Room
	Oral Presentations: Fire Regime and Climate Change Chair: Soodeh Saberian
1:00 - 1:15	Beyond natural disturbance types: A new approach to mapping historical fire regimes Jen Baron
1:15 - 1:30	Fuel-limited or climate-limited fire regimes: A gradient analysis and implications Phil Burton
1:30 - 1:45	The Beast of Bald Range Don Gayton
1:45 - 2:00	Coffee Break
	Oral Presentations: Fire and Ecology Chairs: Jill Harvey, Brendan Hajdu
2:00 - 2:15	Wildfire impacts on surface water quality and eutrophication in Canada: A systematic review and meta-analysis Davood Mahmoodzadeh
2:15 - 2:30	Beyond the green-up: Multi-year vegetation trajectories and persistent soil hydrophobicity following wildfire Virginia Oeggerli
2:30 - 2:45	Post-wildfire cheatgrass invasion alters soil microbial communities associated with Indigenous food plants Raelani Kesler
2:45 - 3:00	Supporting scalable, data-driven post-wildfire restoration through drone-based remote sensing and deep learning Joyce Chan
3:00 - 3:25	Closing Plenary Presentation: Canada's Landscape Fires Spreading Into Uncharted Territory Mike Flannigan
3:25 - 3:30	Closing Remarks Tara Duncan