

*Programme officiel*

*Official program*



# 7<sup>e</sup> th

## CONGRÈS ECANUSA ECANUSA CONFERENCE



Congrès Est du Canada et États-Unis d'Amérique en sciences forestières  
Eastern Canada-United States of America Forest Sciences Conference

*Optimizing ecosystem-based forest management*

*L'optimisation de l'aménagement forestier écosystémique*

**DU 16 AU 18 OCTOBRE**

**2014**

**OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup> TO 18<sup>TH</sup>**

**RIMOUSKI**  
**QUÉBEC, CANADA**



7<sup>e</sup> Congrès ECANUSA 7<sup>th</sup> Conference



Programme officiel

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Du 16 au 18 octobre 2014  
October 16<sup>th</sup> to Octobre 18<sup>th</sup> 2014

Rimouski, Québec, Canada



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# *Comités organisateurs* *Organising Committees*

## **Comité Organisateur / Organising Committee:**

Luc Sirois	UQAR	Directeur logistique
Robert Schneider	UQAR	Directeur scientifique
Ulysse Rémillard	UQAR/RLQ	Adjoint à la direction
Paul Saint-Laurent	MFFP	
Luc Lavoie	CRÉ-BSL	

## **Comité scientifique et programmation** **Scientific committee and programming**

Robert Schneider	UQAR	Luc Lavoie	CRÉ-BSL
Dan Kneeshaw	UQAM	Robert Wagner	U of Maine
Eric R. Labelle		Sirois Luc	UQAR
Gaëtan Pelletier	IRFN-NHRI	Stephen Wyatt	UMoncton
Jennifer A. Pontius	U of Vermont	Yan Boucher	MFFP

**Merci à Nicole Poirier, Linda Michaud et aux bénévoles qui ont rendu possible cet évènement**  
**Thank you, Nicole Poirier, Linda Michaud and volunteers for making this event possible**

# Bienvenue Welcome

Madame, Monsieur,

Nous sommes très fiers d'accueillir le 7e Congrès eCANUSA à l'Université du Québec à Rimouski. Ce congrès est en quelque sorte l'accomplissement de tous les acteurs de la foresterie régionale qui, depuis des décennies, se sont efforcés d'être à l'avant-garde en matière d'aménagement forestier, de foresterie sociale et de transformation des produits du bois.

Le thème intégrateur du congrès est l'optimisation de l'aménagement écosystémique des forêts. La mise en œuvre du nouveau régime forestier au Québec pose un défi majeur à tous les acteurs du domaine: développer une foresterie qui conserve davantage d'attributs de la biodiversité tout en assurant la livraison d'une vaste gamme de produits et services offerts par l'écosystème. C'est un défi en constante évolution compte tenu du caractère dynamique de l'écosystème, des valeurs sociétales et des moyens financiers dont nous pouvons disposer pour aborder cette problématique. Ce défi interpelle tous les intervenants du secteur forestier, du planificateur au praticien, et chaque dimension de la recherche forestière, qu'il s'agisse de l'analyse des politiques, du fonctionnement des forêts ou de la transformation des bois.

Nous voici donc à l'issue d'un long processus de préparation et le comité organisateur espère vivement que ce congrès alimentera des pistes de réflexion et des applications qui trouveront écho dans les pratiques de l'industrie forestière de part et d'autre de la frontière, dans l'est du Canada et des États Unis.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to host the 7th eCANUSA Conference. This conference is the realization of work of all the stakeholders that have for decades kept the regional forestry, from social forestry to new forest products, at the cutting-edge of innovation.

The conference theme is the optimization of ecosystem-based forest management. The new Quebec forest act presents a major challenge for all stakeholders which need to collaborate in order to develop a forest practices that maintain certain forest attributes all the while ensure that our society keeps it's social and economic services. The maintenance of forest attributes is important to preserve biodiversity. Forestry is also an important economic driver, and thus the industry must remain competitive in the global forest product markets. This is a multifaceted and dynamic challenge as the forest ecosystem, social values and financial constraints are constantly evolving. It is necessary for all stakeholders, from forest managers to researchers, to work in collaboration to find innovative solutions to these complex questions.

The organization committee hopes that this conference will facilitate dialog on the optimization of ecosystem-based forest management in the sharing of current research and inspire truly inventive solutions for the advancement of forest practices in the Northeast.



Luc Sirois  
Chaire de recherche sur  
la forêt habitée  
Université du Québec à



Robert Schneider  
Chaire de recherche sur  
la forêt habitée  
Université du Québec à



Paul Saint-Laurent  
Directeur général  
Ministère des Forêts,  
de la faune et des Parcs



Luc Lavoie  
Directeur du secteur des  
ressources naturelles et du  
territoire  
Conférence régionale des



**JEUDI 16 OCTOBRE 2014**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup> 2014**

17:00 - 19:00 **Cocktail de bienvenue (bar payant et inscription) / Icebreaker (paying-bar and registration)**

**VENDREDI 17 OCTOBRE 2014**

**SESSION 1**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup> 2014**

7:00 - 8:00 **Inscription / Registration—Mezzanine**

8:00 - 8:15 **Mot de bienvenue / Welcome message (F-210)**

8:15 - 9:15 **Dominique Arseneault  
Forest changes over the last 200 years in Eastern Canada  
(en anglais) (F-210)**

	<b>Régénération Forest regeneration (F-210) Mod.: Jennifer Pontius</b>	<b>Sylviculture et aménagement forestier Silviculture and forest management (E-303) Mod.: Hugues Power</b>	<b>Faune et entomologie Wildlife and entomology (E-304) Mod.: Bob Wagner</b>	<b>Caractéristiques du bois et écologie forestière Wood characteristics and forest ecology (E-408) Mod.: Alexis Achim</b>
9:15 - 9:35	Growth of northern white-cedar regeneration: the challenge of managing stands with browsing pressure <b>Catherine Larouche</b>	Balsam fir responses to crown tipping after four growing seasons, and feasibility of a second harvest <b>Dodick Gasser</b>	The effect of fine woody debris and vegetation in spruce plantations: Can commercial thinning make life better for mice and voles? <b>Evan Dracup</b>	Modelling knot morphogenesis in trees <b>Emmanuel Duchateau</b>
9:35 - 9:55	Implantation de la régénération naturelle d'essences résineuses après coupe partielle <b>Laurent Gagné</b>	Growth and wood quality of residual black spruce and balsam fir after cutting with protection of small merchantable stems <b>Audrey Lemay</b>	Impacts of white spruce plantation type, age and thinning on habitat quality and use by moose in Eastern Canada <b>Martin-Hugues St-Laurent</b>	Évaluation de la qualité de la fibre par une nouvelle méthode de diagnostic, le résistographe <b>Marilène Beaulieu</b> for/pour <b>Lekounougou, S. T.</b>
9:55 - 10:15	La grandeur des ouvertures dans le couvert forestier : un élément clé pour l'acclimatation et le statut compétitif de l'épinette rouge préétablie <b>Daniel Dumais</b>	Stand structure and dead-wood dynamics in white spruce ( <i>Picea glauca</i> (Moench) Voss) plantations following alternative commercial thinning <b>Kwado Omari</b>	How vegetation-herbivores feedbacks mediate the temperate-boreal forest transition? <b>Isabelle Boulangeat</b>	Influence of height in the tree, competition and thinning on the wood density of Black spruce <b>Tony Franceschini</b>

10:15 - 10:35 **Pause-café / Coffee break—Mezzanine**



VENDREDI 17 OCTOBRE 2014

SESSION 2

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup> 2014

	Écologie historique Historical ecology (F-210) Mod.: Stephan Wyatt	Sylviculture et aménagement forestier Silviculture and forest management (E-303) Mod.: Michel Soucy	Faune et entomologie Wildlife and entomology (E-304) Mod.: Bob Wagner	Caractéristiques du bois et écologie forestière Wood characteristics and forest ecology (E-408) Mod.: Alexis Achim
10:35 - 10:55	L'utilisation de l'écologie historique pour une meilleure compréhension de la dynamique des paysages forestiers <b>Jason Laflamme</b>	Comparaison des caractéristiques dendrométriques et du panier de produits de différentes modalités d'éclaircies commerciales en plantation au Bas-Saint-Laurent <b>Luc Lavoie</b>	L'osmie, une abeille de la forêt boréale au service de l'agriculture nordique <b>Ève-Catherine Desjardins</b>	Effects of warming and drought on the cambial activity and wood characteristics of young black spruce <b>Lorena Balducci</b>
10:55 - 11:15	Changing Geography of Fire: Quebec and the Northern Forest States <b>Llyod Irland</b>	Réaction convergente du volume marchand dix ans après l'éclaircie d'une sapinière en stagnation <b>Stéphane Tremblay</b>	Spruce budworm is back. What don't we know, and can we intervene early to reduce outbreaks? <b>David Maclean</b>	Difficult migration of temperate tree species in the boreal forest under climate change? <b>Steve Vissault</b>
11:15 - 11:35	How have industrial forestry and natural disturbances transformed the tree species composition of southern boreal forests? <b>Yan Boucher</b>	Growth response of northern white cedar ( <i>Thuja occidentalis</i> ) to natural disturbances and partial cuts in mixedwood stands of Quebec, Canada <b>Jean-Claude Ruel</b>	Is the black spruce forest vulnerable to the spruce budworm? <b>Daniel Kneeshaw</b>	Patterns and drivers of growth and mortality determining development of old stand types <b>Bashir Altamash</b>
11:35 - 11:55	High spatial and temporal resolution analysis of forest compositional changes over the past 200 years in the Gaspésie Peninsula <b>Gabriel Fortin</b>	L'utilisation d'indicateurs financiers pour gérer le risque dans la modélisation de l'approvisionnement du bois <b>Georgina Rodriguez</b>	Is there associational susceptibility or associational resistance between black spruce and balsam fir to spruce budworm attack? <b>Fidèle Bognounou</b>	Working toward a multi-trophic assessment of forest management impact on biodiversity <b>Isabelle Aubin</b>
11:55 - 12:15	Structure et dynamique holocène d'une forêt pluricentenaire de pruche du Canada ( <i>Tsuga canadensis</i> ) au Québec méridional <b>Pierre-Luc Couillard</b>	Optimisation of the Economic Value of Integrated Forest Management in Gaspésie Region: a Decision-making Support Tool <b>Hirondelle Varady-Szabo</b>	Topkill of balsam fir and spruce trees during an uncontrolled spruce budworm outbreak on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia <b>Grant Virgin</b>	Régénération et résilience des érablières dans un régime de feux récurrents à leur limite nordique de répartition <b>Vanessa-Joanne Pilon</b>



VENDREDI 17 OCTOBRE 2014

SESSION 3

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup> 2014

12:15 -  
13:50

**Dîner—Cafétéria / Lunch—Cafeteria**  
(repas complet de base inclus avec coupon / Complete basic meal included with ticket)

13:50 -  
14:50

**Laura Kenefic**  
**Sustainable mixed-species forest management:  
a northern white-cedar perspective**  
(en anglais) (F-210)

**Aménagement écosystémique**

**Forêts feuillues  
nordiques**

**Politique forestière et  
sociologie**

**Ecosystem-based  
management**

**Northern hardwood forests**

**Forest policy and  
sociology**

(E-303)

(E-304)

(E-408)

Mod.: Yan Boucher

Mod.: Gaëtan Pelletier

Mod.: Dan Kneeshaw

14:50 -  
15:10

L'aménagement écosystémique au cœur du régime forestier québécois : Où en sommes-nous ? Où allons-nous ?  
**Jean-Pierre Jetté**

A long-term examination of changing species assemblages in a northern hardwood forest  
**Jennifer Pontius**

Negotiating indigenous collaboration in forestry in Quebec, Canada: Finding pathways through multiple processes and actors  
**Stephen Wyatt**

15:10 -  
15:30

Restoring natural attributes of Acadian forest: Rationale and applications  
**Luc Sirois**

Fifty Years of Data from the Management Intensity Demonstration Study at the Penobscot Experimental Forest in Maine  
**Nicole Rogers**

Job habitat - an index to understand changes in the socio-economic potential of forest stands  
**Michel Soucy**

15:30 -  
15:50

Pre-commercial thinning: an ecosystem-based silvicultural treatment?  
**Louis Gauthier**

Patch-selection cutting, a sound method for yellow birch production in Eastern Canada?  
**Hugues Power**  
for/pour  
**Patricia Raymond**

Qu'est que vous pensez sur l'avenir de l'industrie forestière ?  
**Flor de Maria**  
**Robles Barreto**

15:50 -  
16:10

**Pause-café / Coffee break—Mezzanine**





VENDREDI 17 OCTOBRE 2014

SESSION 4

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup> 2014

	Aménagement écosystémique Ecosystem-based management (E-303) Mod.: Yan Boucher	Forêts feuillues nordiques Northern hardwood forests (E-304) Mod.: Gaëtan Pelletier	Politique forestière et sociologie Forest policy and sociology (E-408) Mod.: Dan Kneeshaw
16:10 - 16:20	Complementarity of private and public forest tenure in Bas-Saint-Laurent: from research to implementation for ecosystem-based management <b>Patrick Morin</b>		Optimisation du potentiel de déploiement d'outils diagnostiques de génomique forestière au Canada <b>Véronique Maltais</b>
16:20 - 16:40	La foresterie dans les aires protégées polyvalentes : faisabilité écologique et acceptabilité socio-économique au Québec <b>François Brassard</b>		Présentation du principe d'aménagement forestier multifonctionnel et durable en France <b>Lola Desbourdes</b>
16:40 - 17:10	Ecosystem-based forest management: promising perspectives for the Atlantic-Gaspésie caribou conservation Marie-Audrey <b>Nadeau-Fortin</b>		Predicting hardwood lumber value at the landscape level <b>Mariana Hassegawa</b>
17:10 - 18:00	<b>Session d'affiches / Poster session</b>		

18:00 - 22:00

*Souper avec: / Dinner with :*  
**Robert Beauregard**  
L'économique de la stratégie d'aménagement durable des forêts  
(in French)



SAMEDI 18 OCTOBRE 2014

SESSION 5

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup> 2014

Jerry F. Franklin

8:00 -  
9:00

*Ecological Forestry: Principles, Practices and Contrast with Production Forestry*  
(in English) (F-210)

Écologie du paysage

Nouvelles technologies en  
inventaire forestier

Dynamique forestière

Landscape ecology

New technologies for forest  
management

Forest dynamics

(E-303)

(E-304)

(E-408)

Mod: Isabelle Aubin

Mod: Tony Franceschini

Mod.: Luc Lavoie

9:00 -  
9:20

Visualizing Landscape Connectivity in  
Canadian Forest Ecosystems  
**David Pelletier**

Measuring forest vertical  
structure with inexpensive  
handheld lasers  
**Mark Ducey**

Spatialization of aboveground carbon  
and soil organic carbon stocks in the  
boreal forest of eastern Canada: a  
hybrid modelling approach based on  
current understanding of forest  
dynamics  
**Dinesh Babu**  
**Irulappa Pillai Vijayakum**

9:20 -  
9:40

Evaluating resilience of forest  
communities in fragmented  
landscapes: a new approach for  
linking impacts of forest uses with  
habitat connectivity  
**Élise Filotas**

Quantifying the effect of  
competition on tree crowns using  
TLiDAR  
**Olivier Martin**

How do changes in forest  
composition influence soil chemical  
properties?  
**Vincent Gauthray-Guyénet**

9:40 -  
10:00

Modélisation de la croissance et  
de la qualité du bois de l'épinette  
blanche (*Picea glauca*) à l'échelle  
individuelle en fonction de la  
compétition inter- et intra-  
spécifique  
**Alexa Bérubé-Deschênes**

A framework for cross-scale  
integration for predicting tree range  
shifts under climate change  
**Isabelle Boulangeat**  
for/pour  
**Matthew V. Talluto**

10:00 -  
10:30

Mot de la fin / Closing remarks (F-210)

10:30 -  
17:00

Sortie terrain / Field trip

# ARSENAULT, Dominique

Université du Québec à Rimouski



Présentation orale / Key note

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

8:15 - 9:15

Local F-210

## *Forest changes over the last 200 years in Eastern Canada*

Forest changes over the last 200 years in eastern Canada

In this talk, I will try to explain how the forested landscapes of Eastern Canada have changed over the last 200 years. I will begin with a brief history of the Lower St Lawrence region, as a case study that help explain the changes in forest composition that have occurred in Québec. Archives describing the settlement history, as well as the logging history of the region, suggest unsustainable forest management during the early 20th century (1900-1960) due to high rates of forest clearcutting and high fire activity at the settlement front. At the provincial scale, consequent forest changes included a generalised prevalence decrease of late successional tree species forming large trees that were targeted by the forest industry. These species have been replaced by rapidly growing, rapidly maturing, early successional species that were not targeted. Maple species showed large increase in prevalence and dominance because of their large ecological amplitude, and are likely to become even more dominant in the near future.

***KENEFIC, Laura***

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Présentation orale / Key note

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

13:50 - 14:50

Local F-210

## ***Sustainable mixed-species forest management: a northern white-cedar perspective***

Northern white-cedar is a culturally and economically important tree in the northeastern U.S. and southeastern Canadian provinces. It occurs as a dominant species on lowland and poorly drained sites and as a companion species in mixed hardwood and softwood stands. Commonly used in the production of shingles, fence posts, and specialty products, white-cedar is also long-lived with unique characteristics that contribute to biodiversity and wildlife habitat. Yet, knowledge about sustainable management of white-cedar is limited. As a consequence, this species is often harvested opportunistically or excluded altogether from forest management. The lack of informed and deliberate management of white-cedar has skewed the population age structure toward old trees; regeneration and recruitment failures associated with herbivory by white-tailed deer further endanger resource sustainability. Yet the prevalence of white-cedar in mixed-species stands presents a unique opportunity to implement forestry practices that meet both biodiversity and commodity production objectives.

Over the past decade, collaboration among researchers in Maine and Quebec has contributed substantially to our knowledge of white-cedar ecology and silviculture. Findings highlight white-cedar's regeneration requirements and vulnerabilities, longevity, and growth dynamics. This presentation will review historical and contemporary uses and values of white-cedar, with emphasis on this species' unique contribution to the region's culture, economy, and biodiversity. Strategies will be presented for sustainable management of white-cedar stands and micro-stands under production, conservation, and certification constraints. With guidance from observational studies and experimental trials throughout the region, we can develop an informed approach to management of white-cedar, this contributing positively to the multiple goals of forest management within ecosystem- and commodity-oriented paradigms.

## **BEAUREGARD, Robert**

Université Laval



Présentation orale / Key note

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

18:00 - 22:00

Local F-210



### ***L'économie de la stratégie d'aménagement durable des forêts***

La conférence de Robert Beauregard présente le rôle de l'économie dans l'aménagement écosystémique des forêts québécoises. Il présente comment les concepts économiques, avec ceux de l'évaluation sociale, complètent le point de vue environnemental pour fournir une direction à l'aménagement durable des forêts qui en fasse une réelle contribution au développement durable de la société québécoise. On traite dans la présentation les tendances récentes de la performance économique du secteur forestier, de même que dans les politiques forestières, pour être en mesure de discuter des défis d'avenir tant du secteur forestier que de l'aménagement durable des forêts.

**FRANKLIN, Jerry F.**

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Présentation orale / Key note

Samedi 18 octobre 2014 / Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 2014

8:00 - 9:00

Local F-210

## ***Ecological Forestry: Principles, Practices and Contrast with Production Forestry***

Ecological and production forestry are defined and contrasted in this presentation. **Ecological forestry** utilizes ecological models from natural forest ecosystems as a basis for managing forests. It incorporates principles of natural forest development, including the role of natural disturbances, in the initiation, development, and maintenance of stands and landscape mosaics. **Production forestry** utilizes agronomic and economic models as a basis for managing forests. It combines farming principles with rate-of-return analysis to find the amount and spatial organization of capital that will achieve desired economic outcomes. These two different approaches lead to fundamentally different ways of thinking about forests and their management including:

- 1) conclusions about what ecosystem components we seek to conserve, approaches to risk and maintenance of options, the value of complexity and heterogeneity, and uses of planning;
- 2) different ecological, economic and social implications; and
- 3) very different silvicultural systems and prescriptions, with ecological forestry requiring much more complex prescriptions, which requires more professional expertise and time to implement.

A small set of ecological principles underpin silvicultural prescriptions in ecological forestry. Three principles that operate at the patch or harvest-unit level are the provision of:

- 1) Continuity in forestry structure, function, and biota between pre- and post-harvest ecosystems;
- 2) Creation and maintenance of ecologically-desirable levels of structural complexity and biological diversity in established forests, including spatial heterogeneity; and
- 3) Interventions at ecologically appropriate time intervals.

Principle 4) involves integration of patch-level silvicultural interventions in the context of plans developed at larger (landscape) spatial scales. These principles are illustrated using a variety of examples from North American forest types.



## *Patterns and drivers of growth and mortality determining development of old stand types*

Tree growth and mortality data are crucial to understand the mechanisms underlying changes in forest structure and dynamics. The growth and mortality patterns influencing the dynamics of older stands were studied, using an extensive network of 650 mature-overmature permanent sample plots (PSPs) representing 12 major stand types in New Brunswick. Plots were subdivided into classes based on stand type and volume development pattern (decreasing, fluctuating, and increasing volume with age). Age related decline began at an earlier age, 80-100 years, for seven stand types, especially with balsam fir: poor site spruce, pine, other softwoods, tolerant hardwood-spruce, spruce-balsam fir-intolerant hardwood, intolerant hardwood- spruce-balsam fir and balsam fir-tolerant hardwoods stand types. Four mainly spruce-dominated stand types began to decline at older ages 120-140 years: spruce-balsam fir, spruce-tolerant, and balsam fir-spruce stands. The volume pattern based categorization yielded 62% and 12% of plots in increasing and decreasing volume developmental categories, respectively. The fluctuating volume development class included 26% of plots. Balsam fir-spruce (17%) and spruce-balsam fir (14%) were the only stand types with more than 10% of plots falling in decreasing volume category, whereas all other stand types had less than 5% decreasing plots. Tree mortality was the main determinant of stand dynamics in older stands, and ranged from 4 to 9 m<sup>3</sup>/ha/yr for pine and balsam fir-spruce stands in the decreasing volume development class, respectively. Mortality rates were lowest at 2 to 4 m<sup>3</sup>/ha/yr in the increasing volume development class, and ranged from 4 to 7 m<sup>3</sup>/ha/yr in the fluctuating volume development class. Growth of surviving trees remained relatively stable (2.5 to 6.5 m<sup>3</sup>/ha/yr) among all volume development classes. The wind-associated causes of death (broken top, stem breakage and wind throw) and stem wound accounted for 50-70% of dead trees in all stand types. Mortality played an important role in determining the dynamics of older stands, as survivor growth and ingrowth remained stable across all volume development classes and stand types.

# AUBIN, Isabelle

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

11:35 - 11:55

Local E-408

Co-auteurs / Co-authors:

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Paul Hazlet, RNCAN / NRCAN

Dave Morris, RNCAN / NRCAN

Kara Webster, RNCAN / NRCAN

Dominique Gravel, Université du Québec à Rimouski

Christian Messier, Institut des Sciences de la Forêt

tempérée (ISFORT)

## *Working toward a multi trophic assessment of forest management impact on biodiversity*

Although numerous indicators have been developed and are now widely used, the assessment of forest management impacts on biodiversity remains a significant challenge for managers. Biodiversity metrics are being measured for a wide range of taxonomic groups, but tools allowing the integration and comparison of these group-specific responses are lacking. We investigated the potential of a trait-based approach in achieving a multi-taxa assessment of community dynamics in the boreal forest. We assessed the response of four forest taxa (vegetation, carabids, spiders and birds) to disturbance along a post-harvest chronosequence of jack pine stands, using a suite of functional and taxonomic diversity metrics. This allowed us to identify emergent commonalities and dissimilarities in their community assembly and to contrast their sensitivity to harvesting. Cross-taxa congruence varied greatly among metrics, demonstrating the necessity of including a variety of metrics in impact assessments. Among the studied taxa, spiders proved to be the most sensitive to harvesting, with a strong response and a slow community recovery process. Birds and carabids had highly congruent responses, with marked recovery, while vegetation showed the highest resilience to harvest. Following this study, we are currently implementing a multi-trophic study design at Island Lake (Ontario) aiming at integrating the response to a gradient of biomass removal of 11 taxa (ranging from microbes to vegetation), their interactions and their impacts on keystone ecosystem processes, including litter decomposition and nutrient cycle. This integrative approach represents significant advances toward a multi-trophic assessment, allowing to improve our mechanistic understanding of the links between biodiversity and the environment.



## **BALDUCCI, Lorena**

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

10:35 - 10:55

Local E-408

Co- auteurs / Co-authors:

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Alessio Giovannelli, CNR-IVALSA

Sergio Rossi, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi

Cyrille B.K. Rathgeber, INRA



### *Effects of warming and drought on the cambial activity and wood characteristics of young black spruce*

The increase in warming and drought predicted with climate change could significantly modify the growth of boreal trees, and affect the physiological responses of the regeneration. This study aims to characterize water relations, cambial activity and wood formation of black spruce saplings [*Picea mariana* (Mill.) BSP] subjected to experimental warming and water deficit in greenhouse. Decreased needle water potential and gas exchange were observed during water deficit, demonstrating the isohydric character of the species. After the resumption of rehydration of plants, these physiological parameters returned to conditions similar of the control. In non-irrigated saplings, the restoration of cambial activity after the water deficit was delayed by two to four weeks in warming conditions. Xylem anatomy of saplings was generally unaffected by either the temperature and drought conditions, except for an occasional effect on wood density. Warmer temperatures increased sapling mortality over ambient temperature treatments during drought by 5 to 12%. Our results suggest that black spruce showed a plastic response to intense water deficit under warming, but this would compromise their survival.

# ***BARAL K., Sharad***

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

16:10 - 16:30

Local E-304



## ***Heartwood formation in sugar maple (*Acer saccharum* Marshall)***

Heartwood of sugar maple (*Acer saccharum* Marshall) trees is most likely to discolour over time due to the effects of injury and infections. The discoloration reduces the financial value of the logs by reducing proportion of white coloured wood. Thus, the understanding of heartwood formation along with discoloration would help develop silvicultural methods that improve wood quality of harvested products. In this context, we collected a destructive sample of 79 trees from two different sites of south eastern Quebec, Canada spanning a wide range of tree size and vigour class (MSCR). First, wood disks sampled at different heights from each sample tree were stained with a 2.5% IKI solution to determine sapwood area. Then, sapwood, clear heartwood and discoloured wood components of each disk were measured. Leaf samples were collected from each sample tree using randomized branch sampling technique. Six sample branches per tree were selected randomly so as to have two sample branches from each third of the crown. Data analysis indicated that trees maintain optimum amount of sapwood by the formation of heartwood. Heartwood was found to be related with growth efficiency (GE). More efficient trees are likely to have higher heartwood area for a given basal area at breast height. Moreover, GE was found to be directly related to social position of the tree and average sapwood ring width, and inversely related to tree DBH. Although the discolored wood proportion was not found significantly related to GE, vigorous trees attain a given size much faster than less vigorous trees and thus have less discoloration. Therefore, it is recommended to maintain a residual stand of young, vigorously growing trees to ensure minimum discoloration in the future crop trees.



## *Modélisation de la croissance et de la qualité du bois de l'épinette blanche (Picea glauca) à l'échelle individuelle en fonction de la compétition inter- et intra-spécifique*

Au Bas-Saint-Laurent, 36 000 ha de plantations sont prêtes à une première éclaircie commerciale. L'éclaircie commerciale peut servir à maintenir l'investissement passé des plantations et aussi réduire les écarts entre les forêts actuelles et préindustrielles, tel que souhaité dans le régime d'aménagement écosystémique. En effet, des modalités d'éclaircies commerciales favorisent l'implantation de la régénération, ce qui accentue la variation structurale dans les peuplements. L'identification de traitements sylvicoles répondant aux objectifs du nouveau régime peut être réalisée à l'aide de modèles de croissances. La qualité du bois, intimement reliée aux conditions de croissance, est aussi à considérer pour pouvoir établir la valeur d'un peuplement. L'objectif est de développer un modèle de croissance à l'échelle de la tige individuelle étalonné à l'aide de données provenant de plantations d'épinettes blanches. Un échantillonnage aléatoire stratifié selon le type écologique, la hauteur des arbres et la densité de plantation a permis la mise en place d'un réseau de 96 placettes-échantillons au Bas-Saint-Laurent. Sur chaque arbre, une carotte a été prélevée en vue de mesurer son accroissement. De plus, la vitesse acoustique, intimement reliée au module d'élasticité, a été mesurée à l'aide d'un Hitman sur chaque résineux. La croissance et la vitesse de déplacement des ondes acoustiques (indicateur du module d'élasticité) de l'épinette blanche sera alors prédite en fonction de la compétition inter- et intra-spécifique. La compétition sera prise en compte à travers des indices de compétition distance-indépendants (p.ex. densité de peuplement) ou distance-dépendants (p.ex. distance et diamètre des arbres compétiteurs). Le modèle avec l'AIC (Akaike's criterion index) le plus faible sera sélectionné. Les modèles de croissance et de qualité du bois seront ensuite intégrés dans un simulateur tactique d'aide à la prise de décision dédié aux gestionnaires. Des modalités d'éclaircies commerciales pourront ainsi être identifiées en fonction des caractéristiques du peuplement.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

11:35 - 11:55

Local E-304

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## ***Is there associational susceptibility or associational resistance between black spruce and balsam fir to spruce budworm attack?***

The strength of interactions between individual host plants and their herbivores are influenced by identity of neighboring plants. These associational effects are expressed as either increased (associational vulnerability) or decreased (associational resistance) herbivore attack on the focal host plant. Phylogenetic proximity plays an important role in determining the likelihood of associational effects. The associational resistance of tree species diversity in insect herbivore attacks are stronger when the species are phylogenetically distant. In the spruce budworm (SBW)-forest system, there is evidence that hardwood species reduce the impact (mortality, growth reduction) of SBW on host species. However, there is speculation that in mixed balsam fir/black spruce stands, while balsam fir is the more susceptible host, black spruce can serve as an alternative host that may increase the severity and duration of outbreaks. Mixed stands of fir and black spruce would thus experience associational susceptibility. Despite such suggestions and anecdotal evidence the associational susceptibility between balsam fir and black spruce has never been rigorously tested. The current SBW outbreak in Quebec North shore provides an excellent opportunity to test the evidence of associational effects over time. We considered three stand composition types that differed in their relative density of balsam fir and black spruce (balsam fir dominated stands, black spruce dominated stands and mixed balsam fir-black spruce stands) to assess their susceptibility to defoliation during the early outbreak phase of the SBW. We detected no evidence of associational resistance to defoliation of balsam fir due to the presence of black spruce in the same stand. However, our data suggest associational susceptibility of black spruce to defoliation by the SBW with the strength of this interaction increasing when black spruce co-occurs with balsam fir. These findings suggest that the duration of SBW outbreaks will be longer in mixed balsam fir-black spruce stands.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

11:15 - 11:35

Local F-210

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### ***How have industrial forestry and natural disturbances transformed the tree species composition of southern boreal forests?***

In north-eastern America, historical land use has greatly modified natural forest disturbance dynamics. Industrial forestry practices are among the main anthropogenic activities perceived as detrimental to forest ecosystems. Despite forestry's economical and ecological importance, very few studies have been able to disentangle its effect on landscape composition from those of natural disturbance dynamics on landscape composition. In this study, we used a set of old (~1925) terrestrial forest plots (n > 30 000) in combination with logging and fire history maps to identify which environmental variables (logging history, natural disturbances or physiography) were most important to explain the pre-industrial (1925) and present-day (2005) forest composition of a southern boreal forest landscape (14 900 km<sup>2</sup>) located south of the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean area in central Québec, Canada. We also documented the evolution of tree species composition from 1925 to 2005, following the introduction of clear cutting in the area. Multivariate analysis reveals that in 1925, prior to logging, elevation gradient and fire history were the most important explanatory variables for tree species composition. In 2005, the most important significant variables were elevation gradient, fire history, drainage, and spruce budworm epidemics; logging was also significant, but showed a weaker relationship than elevation or fire history. From 1925 to 2005, trembling aspen and *Betula* spp. showed the most important increase in abundance, whereas *Picea* spp. showed the greatest decrease. Overall abundance of *Pinus* spp. and *Thuja occidentalis* remained relatively constant. We conclude that elevation and fire are far more important than logging to explain present-day tree species composition. However, we also argue that historical land use has played an important role over the last century, since many fires result from land clearings and other human activities.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

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9:40 - 10:40

Local E-304

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## ***How vegetation-herbivores feedbacks mediate the temperate-boreal forest transition?***

Although it is widely recognized that ecological interactions are important to limit species distributions, they are usually not accounted in models. In particular, large herbivores are rarely considered as key drivers, and reciprocal effects of vegetation on herbivore populations are even less commonly included. However, given the high abundance of large herbivores at the transition between temperate and boreal forests, these trophic interactions are likely to play a key role in determining the geographical limits of the two forest types.

Our objective was to understand how the interaction between the vegetation and two browsers (the white-tailed deer and the moose) is likely to modify the distribution of temperate and boreal forests along an environmental gradient. We used simple mathematical models to represent the transition between major vegetation states at the landscape level. The herbivores' dynamics were modelled using a metaphysiological approach. We also included selective feeding behaviour depending on resource availability and mediation by climatic conditions. We used an extensive dataset of forest permanent plots in Québec, as well as the herbivores densities from aerial inventories, and a thorough literature review to parameterize the model.

We find that the distribution of vegetation might not be only limited by physiological constraints related to climatic conditions, but also by interactions with large herbivores. In a context of climate change, these results show that the presence of large herbivores is able to delay the colonisation of the boreal forest by the temperate forest and therefore maintain the current forest composition in the short term. This work demonstrates that it is not possible to anticipate the response of the vegetation while ignoring its interactions with other trophic levels.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

16:30 - 16:50

Co-auteurs / Co-authors:

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### ***La foresterie dans les aires protégées polyvalentes : faisabilité écologique et acceptabilité socio-économique au Québec***

La gestion des ressources naturelles dans un contexte d'aire protégée soulève de nombreuses questions dans la lignée du débat international suscité par les projets intégrés de développement et de conservation. C'est dans ce contexte qu'un projet d'expérimentation est réalisé afin de documenter la compatibilité des activités forestières en terres publiques avec le développement d'un nouveau statut d'aire protégée pour le Québec : les aires protégées polyvalentes (catégories V et VI de l'UICN). L'un des principaux enjeux de l'expérimentation consiste à identifier les moyens permettant la cohabitation harmonieuse de la foresterie avec des objectifs de conservation du patrimoine naturel et culturel. Sur le plan écologique, l'objectif global d'atteindre un haut degré de naturalité des écosystèmes à l'échelle du paysage est visé par ce type d'aire protégée. En ce sens, l'aménagement écosystémique des forêts est considéré comme un outil pour atteindre cet objectif. Sur le plan économique, la création de valeur axée sur la qualité et la diversité des produits forestiers, plutôt que la maximisation du volume en bois, est considérée comme un des moyens pour atteindre simultanément des objectifs écologiques et économiques. Enfin, sur le plan social, des entrevues avec différents groupes d'acteurs contribuent à forger la vision québécoise d'une aire protégée polyvalente et à moduler les stratégies d'aménagement selon les savoirs locaux. Les synergies possibles entre l'environnement, l'économie et le social se déclinent en une série d'actions « mutuellement bénéfiques » qui sont l'un des facteurs de succès pour le déploiement de ce type d'aires protégées.



## *Structure et dynamique holocène d'une forêt pluricentenaire de pruche du Canada (*Tsuga canadensis*) au Québec méridional*

Nous avons procédé à une analyse de la structure et de la dynamique holocène d'une forêt de pruche du Canada (*Tsuga canadensis* ([Linnaeus] Carrière). La station occupée par la prucheraie se situe dans la région de Lotbinière, située au sud-ouest de Québec, et fait partie de la réserve écologique de la Rivière-du-Moulin (46° 38' N, 71° 53' O), la toute première des réserves écologiques du Québec à être constituée en 1975. L'historique des feux reconstitués à l'aide de macrorestes de charbon de bois a révélé que la prucheraie a été, et est encore, le théâtre de plusieurs perturbations reliées au passage de feux récurrents depuis les 6000 dernières années. La région a connu un régime de feux soutenus depuis l'Holocène moyen, d'abord en forêt caducifoliée où prédominait le hêtre à grandes feuilles, le noyer et les bouleaux jusqu'à environ 2100 ans avant aujourd'hui, et ensuite en forêt de conifères où a prédominé, pendant une partie ou pendant toute la période la pruche du Canada. Les 400 dernières années ont été marquées par une forte recrudescence des feux jamais enregistrés auparavant dans la station. L'abondance du charbon à la surface du sol formé de bois d'écorce suggère l'incidence de feux légers ayant parcouru le parterre forestier, sans nécessairement tuer tous les arbres matures, mais sans doute brûler la partie externe de leur tronc. La prucheraie forme une forêt pluricentenaire, aux arbres longévives et aux tiges auto-élaguées, qui se comporte alors comme les forêts de grands pins d'Amérique du Nord qui évoluent sous un régime de feux de surface récurrents. L'influence anthropique est probablement responsable de ce nouveau type d'association écosystémique entre les feux et la prucheraie aux grands arbres et au parterre ombragé et dégagé. Ces connaissances apportent un regard nouveau sur la dynamique naturelle des forêts tempérées du Québec méridional et sont essentielles à la mise en œuvre de l'aménagement écosystémique.



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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

16:30 - 16:50

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## *Origines et principales caractéristiques du principe d'aménagement forestier multifonctionnel et durable en France*

La France métropolitaine compte 16,4 millions d'ha de forêts (28% du territoire), dont les trois-quarts sont privés. Les forêts publiques sont majoritairement domaniales et communales.

Une des principales caractéristiques du patrimoine forestier français est sa diversité, induite d'abord par une diversité géographique, topographique et climatique (l'Inventaire forestier national a découpé la France en 91 sylvoécotémoins).

Cette diversité et le territoire restreint dans lequel il a fallu concilier tous les usages de la forêt ont entraîné tôt dans l'Histoire une réflexion sur l'aménagement des forêts françaises. Les ordonnances de Brunoy (1349) puis de Colbert (1669), destinées à assurer la pérennité et la disponibilité de cette ressource stratégique, constituent les prémices de l'aménagement forestier français. Depuis, la notion, le cadre et les outils de l'aménagement ont évolué de façon empirique, pour arriver aux modes de gestion durable pratiqués aujourd'hui, qui s'appuient sur le principe de multifonctionnalité et ses trois piliers : économique, environnemental et social.

La loi d'orientation forestière, premier cadre de la politique forestière française, est déclinée sur le terrain par des documents de gestion durable adaptés à la surface et la nature (publique ou privée) des propriétés, qui traitent explicitement des différentes fonctions de la forêt. L'aménagement de la forêt domaniale d'Auberive sera présenté ici.

En forêt, cette gestion repose sur des sylvicultures basées sur les mêmes principes de durabilité et de multifonctionnalité, dont le traitement en futaie irrégulière.

Enfin, l'aménagement tient compte de l'intégration des forêts dans les territoires par la mise en cohérence des divers documents de gestion, le dialogue et la concertation entre les professionnels chargés de les élaborer et appliquer. Cette démarche se retrouve au sein des parcs nationaux français.

L'aménagement durable et multifonctionnel français et l'aménagement écosystémique québécois peuvent s'enrichir mutuellement : les échanges sur leur application pratique constituent un pas dans ce sens.



## *L'osmie, une abeille de la forêt boréale au service de l'agriculture nordique*

Des abeilles pollinisatrices du genre *Osmia* nichent dans les cavités présentes dans les milieux forestiers environnant les bleuetières du Québec. Ces osmies adoptent facilement des nichoirs artificiels fabriqués à leur intention et se prêtent bien au développement d'un élevage. Toutefois, leur comportement de butinage reste méconnu. L'objectif général de ce projet est de déterminer les espèces présentes, leur potentiel comme vecteur de pollen ainsi que d'adapter les techniques d'élevage existantes à ces espèces. Les résultats obtenus indiquent que les deux espèces les plus abondantes dans les nichoirs artificiels étaient *Osmia tersula* et *O. distincta*. Leur rapidité de butinage (nombre de fleurs butinées par minute) a été évaluée à l'aide de films et d'observations visuelles en bleuetières. La qualité de pollinisation a été déterminée grâce à une étude (quantité et qualité) du pollen déposé sur les pistils suivant une visite aux fleurs. Des relevés visuels de l'activité des osmies mis en relation avec les facteurs microclimatiques ont permis d'évaluer leur sensibilité aux facteurs météorologiques. Le principal facteur affectant l'activité de butinage est la luminosité. Les osmies débutent leur activité journalière à 8 h et terminent à 17 h. En élevage, le parasite le plus problématique était la guêpe *Sapyga martini*. Lors de son introduction printannière en bleuetières, l'osmie d'élevage doit être confinée quelques jours afin d'adopter les nichoirs artificiels. Elle supporte bien les milieux clos et pourrait ainsi servir comme pollinisateur dans les serres. Cette étude a permis le montage d'un tableau comparatif des différents insectes pollinisateurs des cultures fruitières du Québec pour mieux aider les producteurs dans leur choix ainsi qu'un protocole simple et applicable par tous pour l'élevage de cette abeille.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

9:15 - 9:35

Local E-304



### ***The effect of fine woody debris and vegetation in spruce plantations: Can commercial thinning make life better for mice and voles?***

Spruce plantations are known to have lower small rodent abundance than similar natural stands. We assessed whether commercially thinning (CT) spruce (*Picea* spp.) plantations (40% basal area removal) can instigate structural changes in woody debris input and vegetation to ameliorate small rodent abundance. Six 25-30 year old white spruce (*Picea glauca*) plantations in north-western New Brunswick were divided into three treatments each: CT with debris retention (only merchantable trunk removed), CT with all debris removed (full tree removal), and non-CT (plantation without CT). Thereby three contrasts were created: debris rich/understory vegetation rich, debris poor/understory vegetation rich, and debris poor/understory vegetation poor. We trapped each treatment during spring and summer 2011 and 2012 using mark-recapture, and estimated animal density with program Density, and survival with program MARK. Red-backed vole (*Myodes gapperi*) density was 2-3 times greater in CT with debris retention than either non-CT, or CT with debris removal, and their survival rate was double compared to CT with debris-removal. Woodland jumping mouse (*Napaeozapus insignis*) density was 2-5 times greater in non-CT compared to either CT treatment. Deer mice (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) did not show any treatment effect. Productivity and demographics were not apparently affected by treatment for any species. Our results indicate red-backed voles are receptive to CT with debris retention, while woodland jumping mice are adverse to CT and overstory breakup.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Samedi 18 octobre 2014 / Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 2014

9:00 - 9:20

Local E-304



## *Measuring forest vertical structure with inexpensive handheld laser*

The vertical structure of forest canopies is closely tied to carbon and energy exchange with the atmosphere, maybe an important aspect of habitat for some bird species, and provides a crucial link to air and spaceborne remote sensing (including LiDAR). However, it can be difficult to measure from the ground. Vertical point quadrat sampling using cameras or lasers has been suggested as one alternative, but previous approaches to modeling forest structure using such data have required impractical sample sizes for reliable estimates. Terrestrial laser scanning offers adequate sample sizes but remains too expensive for most field applications. Recent statistical advances, including the recognition of the close connection between the MacArthur-Horn transform (the most common technique for analyzing vertical point quadrat data) and nonparametric techniques in survival analysis, have opened the door to more efficient uses of such data. We briefly present the theory for maximum likelihood estimation of a parametric model of forest vertical structure, and illustrate it using vertical point quadrat sampling data collected with a handheld laser in northern hardwood and spruce-fir forests.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

9:15 - 9:35

Local E-408

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## *Modelling knot morphogenesis in trees*

Stem and branch development in trees is a dynamic process influenced by many interacting biological, mechanical and environmental constraints. While many tree growth models are dynamic in nature, most existing knot models provide static representations of knot geometry at a given time. In this study, we aimed to 1) develop new models of the annual development of knot morphology as a function of secondary stem growth and external tree characteristics and 2) to investigate the annual variation in the ratio of knot to stem growth allocation.

Data describing the annual three-dimensional shape and position of 5377 knots were extracted from X-ray computed tomography images taken along the stems of 11 black spruce (*Picea mariana*) trees, and annual stem growth was measured using image analysis. The ratio of knot to stem growth allocation during tree development was used to develop statistical models describing knot curvature and diameter as functions of stem radial increment, total height, stem diameter, and the position of knots along the annual growth unit.

The knot curvature and diameter models were generally unbiased and were able to produce realistic representations of knots in simulations by varying growth patterns and external tree characteristics. The sum of the annual basal area increments for all knots along the stem did not vary according to a simple allometric relationship with stem basal area increments.

This study has successfully linked secondary growth in the primary and secondary aerial axes of mature trees, allowing accurate reconstruction of annual knot development. The developed models can help refine functional-structural tree growth models through an improved representation of the internal structure of tree stems.



## *La grandeur des ouvertures dans le couvert forestier : un élément clé pour l'acclimatation et le statut compétitif de l'épinette rouge préétablie*

Les caractéristiques de l'épinette rouge (*Picea rubens* Sarg.) en font une des essences forestières qui se régénère le plus difficilement à la suite d'une perturbation. Dans ce contexte, les semis déjà établis en sous-bois sont précieux et font partie de sa stratégie naturelle de maintien à long terme. Toutefois, leur progression dans les étages du peuplement peut être compromise par des difficultés d'acclimatation et de croissance causées par des conditions adverses (lumière forte, température élevée) associées à une ouverture trop brusque du couvert forestier. Une étude antérieure a démontré que le prélèvement partiel uniforme d'arbres du couvert dominant permettait d'acclimater et faire croître la régénération préétablie d'épinette rouge mais que le sapin baumier (*Abies balsamea* [L.] Mill.) en profitait davantage.

Des études sur l'écophysologie de la régénération préétablie d'épinette rouge et de sapin se sont donc poursuivies, en regardant cette fois-ci, l'effet de divers types d'ouvertures (ou trouées) dans le couvert forestier : i) petites, < 100 m<sup>2</sup>; ii) moyennes, de 100 à 300 m<sup>2</sup>, de forme irrégulière; et iii) grandes, 700 m<sup>2</sup>, circulaires. Chez l'épinette, nous avons principalement observé des différences de photosynthèse maximale entre les types de trouées, alors que chez le sapin, c'est surtout la surface foliaire spécifique qui a varié. En conséquence, la croissance des deux espèces a été similaire dans les moyennes trouées, mais le sapin a surpassé l'épinette dans les petites et grandes trouées. Ainsi, selon cette étude, les conditions créées par des ouvertures de forme irrégulière de 100 à 300 m<sup>2</sup> sont bénéfiques à l'acclimatation et à la reprise de croissance de l'épinette rouge, lui permettant de concurrencer le sapin baumier. Enfin, les résultats pour l'épinette dans les trouées de 700 m<sup>2</sup> confirment son inhabileté à croître aussi rapidement que le sapin dans de telles conditions.

## *Evaluating resilience of forest communities in fragmented landscapes: a new approach for linking impacts of forest uses with habitat connectivity*

Multiple agents of change increasingly impact function and resilience of forest ecosystems, particularly in regions with growing human populations and agricultural activity. A considerable portion of these forests are private and non-commercial, for which management plans have not been elaborated in a way that accounts for how habitat fragmentation and forest management practices jointly operate on functional response diversity. The objective of this study was twofold. First, we examine the extent to which the functional diversity (FD), at local and regional scales, is determined by previous forest use intensity in private, non-commercial forests across Centre-du-Québec, Canada. *Acer rubrum* abundance was used as proxy for inferring the intensity of forest use. Second, we identify management priorities that promote resilience of these forests to future disturbances. In particular, we aimed at maintaining FD at the landscape-scale. We hypothesized that regional FD can be enhanced or maintained by locally restoring or conserving FD in forest patches that occupy focal locations in connecting together, through seed dispersal, the other patches of the landscape. We address this goal by analyzing the connectivity of the landscape with respect to the forest community using a spatial network approach. Functional response diversity was significantly lower than expected at random, which likely was due to local-scale forest use that promotes dominance of *Acer rubrum*. We identified forest patches that are essential for conserving and enhancing regional FD based on the connector fraction of the probability of connectivity metric (PC). We demonstrate how PC can be calculated with respect to local FD and seed dispersal abilities of present tree species. This study provides a novel application of spatial networks in a forest community context which is likely to improve efficiency of management efforts.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

11:35 - 11:55

Local F-210

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## ***High spatial and temporal resolution analysis of forest compositional changes over the past 200 years in the Gaspésie Peninsula***

Significant changes in forest composition since the pre-industrial period have been documented across the temperate zone of North America, including the increase of shade-intolerant broad-leaved species (trembling aspen, paper birch and maples) at the expense of long-lived or shade tolerant species (eastern white cedar, pines, eastern hemlock, American beech and yellow birch). However, the causes and timing of these transformations are still poorly understood. In this study, we investigated these changes with high spatial and temporal resolutions in southern Gaspésie in eastern Canada. Seven georeferenced datasets concerning different time periods allow reconstructing the changing forest composition in a 1400 km<sup>2</sup> study area over the past 200 years. The firsts three datasets come from the early land survey records (1820-1880, 1880-1900, 1900-1950; total n = 6493) while the remaining ones come from plots of the four decadal forest inventories conducted by the Québec government (1970s, 1980s, 1990s, 2000s; total n = 1502). The results show that 20th century fires were the principal cause of the increase in trembling aspen, paper birch and maples. Pines declined after logging operations of the late 19th century. Eastern white cedar and tamarack display strong resilience to these disturbances in the poorly-drained lowlands. These findings help us understand the long term impacts of anthropogenic disturbances and, more broadly, the long term forest dynamics. These findings can also help us define ecosystem based forest management targets.



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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

9:55 - 10:15

Local E-408

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## *Influence of height in the tree, competition and thinning on the wood density of Black spruce*

The effects of global change on wood properties are largely unexplored. Wood density is known to be positively correlated to summer temperatures and negatively correlated to water availability in coniferous species. However, most studies were performed on samples obtained at breast height from dominant trees. Using black spruce densitometry measurements, the objectives of the study were to determine if the relationship between wood density and climate varies with (i) the height in the tree, (ii) tree social status and (iii) thinning regimes.

A total of 72 black spruce trees from three regions in Québec, Canada (Côte Nord, Abitibi, Lac Saint-Jean) were sampled, with ring density measurements obtained from 1 to 7 different heights. In each region, six sites were selected (3 unthinned and 3 thinned). Within each site, four trees of different social status were randomly selected. Monthly mean temperatures and precipitation from 1970 to 2010 were interpolated using Biosim.

First, we constructed a mixed-effect model of mean ring density as a function of cambial age. Then the residuals of this model were expressed as a function of growth unit (representing the height in the tree), the social status of the tree, the thinning applied, climatic variables and interactions between climate and the other variables. Second, an interaction between climatic variables and growth unit, social status and thinning regime was included.

The results of this study highlighted the importance of the social status of the tree to determine the response of wood density to climatic variables. In addition, the influence of climate was at its maximum when considering samples at breast height. Eventually, thinning was found to have only a limited effect on the relationship between climate and wood density, signifying that changes in wood density will be more influenced by climatic change than anthropogenic disturbances.



## *Implantation de la régénération naturelle d'essences résineuses après coupe partielle*

La conversion de la structure équiennne de forêts d'âge intermédiaire vers des futaies irrégulières-inéquiennes implique l'établissement d'une régénération composée d'essences longévives. L'objectif de cette étude est de vérifier si la coupe partielle favorise l'installation de la régénération naturelle. Dans des parcelles de 200 m<sup>2</sup>, nous avons fait l'inventaire de la régénération par classe d'âge et de hauteur après une coupe partielle dans 12 sapinières naturelles âgées de 40 à 75 ans et dans 5 plantations d'épinettes blanches âgées de 49 à 82 ans ayant été traitées 1 ou 2 fois en coupe partielle. Les inventaires ont été réalisés entre 9 et 30 années après les coupes partielles. Nous avons mesuré la lumière et recensés les semis (<150 cm de hauteur) sur 6 substrats différents : mousse, sol minéral, bois pourri, litière morte, herbacées et bois mort. Plus de 80% des semis recensés se sont installés après la coupe partielle peu importe l'âge du peuplement. Après la coupe partielle, le coefficient de distribution total en essences résineuses était de 100% pour les peuplements naturels dont 34% en épinette et dans les plantations, le coefficient était de 54% et 30% après la première et deuxième coupes partielles dont 6,5% et 8,5% en épinette, dans le même ordre. Le nombre de semis de sapin baumier était toujours plus élevé que ceux d'épinette et plus élevé dans les peuplements naturels par rapport aux plantations. Dans les peuplements naturels, le nombre de semis de sapin variait de 25 000 à 100 000/ha et celui des épinettes de 500 à 2000 /ha; dans les plantations, il y avait 1000 semis de sapin/ha et 500 semis/ha d'épinette. Le sapin et les épinettes étaient présents sur tous les types de substrats avec une préférence significative pour le bois pourri dans le cas des épinettes. Les modèles indiquent que les substrats expliquent le mieux la présence de semis, alors que la lumière serait le facteur déterminant pour expliquer la croissance en hauteur. Nos résultats indiquent que la coupe partielle favorise la régénération en espèces résineuses longévives, le sapin étant également présent en abondance.



## *Balsam fir responses to crown tipping after four growing seasons, and feasibility of a second harvest*

Balsam fir (*Abies balsamea* [L.] Mill.) is a major conifer tree species in northern North America. It is widely used in the floral greenery industry each fall. Yearly harvest of tips over the past few years on the Gaspé Peninsula has been estimated at approximately 6.5–7 million lb (3.1 million kg), making the region one of the largest producers of balsam fir tips in North America. In an earlier paper, we defined four crown-tipping practices based on harvesting intensity at the tree level and harvesting severity at the limb level. We learned that harvesting all merchantable tips on a tree, regardless of the initial total length of the limb—the more severe—more intense practice—is the most productive and the most efficient practice, and should not jeopardize balsam fir tree survival and growth.

After four growing seasons, this study: (i) examines tree survival and growth responses; (ii) measures harvesting intensity at the stand level and tip production at the tree level; and (iii) evaluates harvesters' production and productivity, comparing them among the four contrasting crown-tipping practices. We hypothesized that (i) none of the examined practices would affect balsam fir trees survival and growth; and (ii) a second crown tipping would be possible, except in the more severe—more intense practice. Results of this experiment are presented, and the technical and financial feasibility of a second crown tipping is assessed. We discuss the implications of these results in terms of the relevance and applicability of some management guideline specifications, and assess the compatibility of tip harvesting while pursuing an objective of timber production.



## *Pre-commercial thinning: an ecosystem-based silvicultural treatment?*

Quebec face a new paradigm in forest management, where new silvicultural strategies and treatments need to be developed in order to respond to ecosystem-based management's challenges. The actual spruce-fir forests in the study region lack old-growth attributes and are mainly even-aged. They also present a different species composition when compared to the same forest type in the preindustrial dynamic. Structural conversion from even-aged to uneven-age forests permits to maintain much old-growth forest attributes. However, this conversion process should be performed in immature stands due to the intrinsic instability of mature even-aged stands. Based on literature review, we explored how PCT could help in ecosystem management. By directing resources to a limited number of stems, PCT can favor stand stability. Pre-commercial thinning give the possibility to select long-living and windthrow resistant tree species which also help in creating stand conversion from regular to irregular stand. Also, Irregular stands present favorable regeneration conditions to many tree species in decline. This treatment can thus play an important role in structural conversion of regular to irregular stands, in maintaining old growth attributes in managed forests and in the return of species in decline, which are ecosystem-based issues. At the same time, by reallocating site potential on a limited number of stems, PCT can increase wood quality and stand value when located in the most productive spruce-fir stands. In conclusion PCT can respond to several challenges of ecosystem-based management and of wood production.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Samedi 18 octobre 2014 / Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 2014

9:20 - 9:40

Local E-408

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## *How do changes in forest composition influence soil chemical properties ?*

There is mounting evidence that the forests of the Lower St. Lawrence River have undergone major changes in their structure and composition during the twentieth century. These shifts might induce changes in soil properties, as it is well known that soil genesis is influenced by both the parent material and the vegetation. Changes in stand composition of 75 plots were established using survey records from 1930 which were precise enough to be geolocalized. Plots were revisited in 2012. Actual forest stand composition was measured by variable radius plots and soil samples were taken in the O, B and C horizons. Concentrations in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  cations were analyzed with a plasma spectrometer in each horizon, and the nitrogen concentration was determined by single dosage. The links between past and present forest composition and the soil properties were explored with a redundancy analysis (RDA). Our results indicate that both present and past stand compositions influence soil properties, with the greatest influence of past composition being observed in the O horizon. Furthermore, a more detailed analysis confirms the impact of shifts in species composition between the two periods. These results demonstrate that the soil properties are under strong influence of both the present and past vegetations, even after several decades. More importantly, the effects of in stand composition shifts, be it human or climatically induced, on ecosystem functioning can be better understood.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

16:50 - 17:10

Local E-304

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## *Predicting hardwood lumber value at the landscape level*

High grading of the temperate North American hardwood forests resulted in a great number of depleted stands, composed of low-vigour and low-quality stems. Forest restoration measures are being implemented, but a poor understanding of the influence of site-level characteristics on the quality of hardwoods might limit their success. This study aimed to improve this knowledge by modelling the factors that affect lumber monetary value (LMV) of the current growing stock trees across the province of Quebec, Canada. Firstly, an established model used to predict the LMV of standing trees was reassessed using data from 32 yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis* Britt.) and 64 sugar maple (*Acer saccharum* Marsh.) trees. The adjusted model was then applied to trees from 22,579 temporary sample plots covering the entire temperate zone within the province of Quebec. The Boosted Regression Trees method was used for data mining and model building. Results showed that the LMV of standing trees is correlated with several stand and climatic variables. LMV was positively correlated, for example, with the merchantable basal area and structural diversity index, but negatively related to the number of merchantable stems and species diversity index. Also, LMV tended to be higher in old uneven aged stands than in younger stands. A pattern can be observed in these results, where higher LMV generally occurred in stands with a large basal area and a high variability in stem sizes. For sugar maple exclusively, we observed a negative correlation between the LMV and the soil load capacity exceedance of sulfur. This may be explained by the deleterious influence that soil acidification has over some hardwood species, resulting in the decline of tree vigour and growth. These findings will facilitate the development of silvicultural strategies to improve the quality of future wood supplies.



## *Integrating standing value estimations into tree marking guidelines to meet wood supply objectives*

The identification of low-vigor trees with potential for sawlog production is a key objective of tree marking guidelines used for partial cuts in northern hardwoods. The aim of this study was to measure the impact of various vigor-related defects on the monetary value of hardwoods. To achieve this, we sampled 64 sugar maple (*Acer saccharum* Marshall) and 32 yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis* Britton) trees from two locations in southern Quebec, Canada. We identified over 420 defects, which were grouped into 8 categories. The trees were then harvested, processed into lumber and measured according to the rules of the National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA). The value per unit volume of each stem was calculated from the value of the product assortment (lumber, chips, and sawdust). We found that visible evidence of fungal infections (sporocarps and (or) stroma) and cracks had the largest negative influence on value in both species. A model that included these defects was almost as good at predicting value as one that included a specifically designed quality classification. In addition, higher proportion of best lumber grades was associated with trees and logs without major defects. A more accurate assessment of value could be achieved using wood decay assessment tools and (or) by considering site-specific variables. Results from this study showed that visual identification of fungal infections and cracks could be used to enhance tree marking guidelines for hardwoods. This would meet both the silvicultural objective of selection cuts, by removing low-vigor trees, and the wood supply objective, by improving stem quality assessment prior to harvest.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

10:55 - 11:15

Local F-210



## *Changing Geography of Fire: Quebec and the Northern Forest States*

Quebec and the adjacent states from New York to Maine comprise a region spanning wide differences in biogeoclimatic conditions and hence varying fire regimes. These range from Quebec's sub-boreal "fire triangle" to the virtual fire desert of Vermont. A recent study of fire trends for the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact assembled the first longrange fire occurrence history for this region. In addition, a collection of individual fire data by jurisdiction from the 1970s was assembled. These trends are interpreted through the lens of extreme value theory, which supplies a useful perspective on fire trends. The weaknesses and limitations of the available data constrain conclusions that can be drawn. Limitations on weather histories constrain drawing statistically strong connections between climate variables and fire trends. Finally, data on fire occurrence in settled areas are incomplete and often not available on a current basis. In the expanding "interface" areas, we actually do not know how frequently forest fires are occurring. Implications for research and management are briefly noted.



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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Samedi 18 octobre 2014 / Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 2014

9:00 - 9:20

Local E-408

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## *Spatialization of aboveground carbon and soil organic carbon stocks in the boreal forest of eastern Canada: a hybrid modelling approach based on current understanding of forest dynamics*

In existing carbon budget models, carbon stocks are not explicitly related to forest successional dynamics and environmental factors. Yet, time since last fire (TSLF) is an important variable to explain successional change and subsequently carbon storage. The objective of this study was to develop a hybrid modelling approach based on the knowledge of successional dynamics to explain the spatial variability of landscape carbon stocks. Aboveground carbon stocks (AGC) and soil organic carbon stocks (SOC) (upland forest soils, forest floor thickness  $\leq$  30 cm) were predicted using Random Forest at the sample plot level (common scale for carbon budget models) and then extrapolated at the scale of 2 km<sup>2</sup> cells. This scale is an adequate scale to explain carbon accumulation over the landscape (process-based knowledge), as it corresponds to the median fire size observed from recent and thus accurate fire records.

The percentage of variance explained by empirical sample-plot level models of AGC and SOC were 50.3% and 16.9% respectively. At that scale, TSLF was not significant in explaining AGC and SOC. At the landscape scale (2 km<sup>2</sup>) however, TSLF was the most important variable in explaining AGC, even before species abundance. Species abundance was the most important variables for predicting SOC. The percentage of variance explained in predicting 2 km<sup>2</sup> AGC and SOC were 72.9% and 59%. The cells with lowest accuracy in AGC and SOC predictions correspond to regions of high fire activity between 1910 and 1940. This study results illustrate the significance of developing landscape-carbon yield curves in relation with TSLF for process based carbon budget models.



## *L'aménagement écosystémique au cœur du régime forestier québécois : Où en sommes-nous ? Où allons-nous ?*

Depuis 2010, la Loi sur l'aménagement durable du territoire forestier place l'aménagement écosystémique au cœur du régime forestier. La loi présente ce concept comme un moyen privilégié pour implanter l'aménagement durable des forêts et elle stipule que les plans d'aménagement forestier intégré (PAFI) doivent être élaborés sur cette base.

Avec l'entrée en vigueur des PAFI en 2013, la mise en œuvre de l'aménagement écosystémique s'opère maintenant partout au Québec. Beaucoup d'éléments restent encore à préciser ou à ajuster selon chacune des situations locales. Tous les acteurs impliqués dans la gestion forestière sont interpellés par le défi de produire une deuxième génération de PAFI qui pourra mieux et plus facilement concrétiser l'esprit de la loi. Mais cette deuxième étape soulève aussi d'autres défis d'importance.

Premièrement, au cours des récentes années, beaucoup d'efforts ont été consentis à documenter les enjeux écologiques, identifier des seuils d'altération critiques et imaginer des solutions d'aménagement. On a alors cherché les meilleurs compromis possibles entre les risques écologiques et les conséquences économiques. Il est maintenant temps de pousser plus loin la réflexion sur le terrain économique. Comment peut-on envisager une économie forestière rentable dans le contexte de l'aménagement écosystémique? Sur quelles questions devons-nous travailler pour donner une perspective économique à nos choix de conservation ?

Deuxièmement, le concept de l'aménagement écosystémique s'inscrit dans un monde qui change rapidement. De plus en plus d'évidences scientifiques nous montrent que des changements globaux sont en train de s'opérer à grande échelle et que ceux-ci affecteront les forêts et leur fonctionnement. Quels gestes devons-nous poser en aménagement forestier pour faire en sorte que les forêts puissent continuer à fournir les services socio-écologiques dont nous tirons profit ? Le concept d'aménagement écosystémique est-il encore utile ou doit-il être adapté pour faire face à cette situation ?

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

11:15 - 11:35

Local E-304

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## ***Is the black spruce forest vulnerable to the spruce budworm?***

In 2013 the spruce budworm (SBW) defoliated > 3 million hectares and this further north than in past centuries. In these forests, a secondary host, black spruce, dominates over its primary host, balsam fir. Phenological shifts among hosts, the SBW and parasitoids could change outbreak severity. To understand future losses, we are evaluating 1) phenological changes in SBW emergence; 2) black spruce and balsam fir bud burst with climate change; 3) vulnerability of stands of different mixes of species (associational resistance vs associational susceptibility); 4) the impact of defoliation on nutrient cycling in stands with different species mixes; 5) rates of parasitism; 6) relative dispersal of the SBW and its parasitoids in response to landscape structure (composition and configuration); 7) and the presence and abundance of alternative lepidopteran hosts for multivoltine parasitoids. Our results show black spruce budburst advances becoming more synchronous with balsam fir as temperature increases. Black spruce in stands mixed with balsam fir are more defoliated than in pure black spruce stands consistent with theories of associational susceptibility for phylogenetically proximal species. As parasitoids are influenced by forest diversity, the relative homogeneity of the black spruce zone suggests that the SBW will be subject to less top-down pressure from natural enemies. Forest diversity at different spatial scales significantly affects relative rates of parasitism of univoltine parasitoids (Glypta, Apanteles) that corresponds to insect body size – larger and farther dispersing parasitoids respond to forest structure at larger spatial scales. Phenological shifts that increase synchrony between the SBW and black spruce, associational susceptibility of mixed stands, the importance of landscape structure to population increases of SBW, and the lack of alternative hosts for multivoltine parasitoids all suggest that ecosystem processes such as forest productivity and nutrient cycling in the black spruce zone could be heavily impacted by the current and future outbreaks.

## *L'utilisation de l'écologie historique pour une meilleure compréhension de la dynamique des paysages forestiers*

Au cours des vingt-cinq dernières années, le Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) a développé un système hiérarchique de classification écologique couvrant l'ensemble du Québec méridional. Ces travaux ont porté sur l'inventaire, la classification et la cartographie des écosystèmes forestiers selon onze niveaux de perception imbriqués les uns aux autres, allant de l'échelle continentale à l'échelle locale. À l'échelle locale, le système repose sur des entités écologiques qui se succèdent le long d'une toposéquence descriptive du territoire (végétations potentielles). Le déploiement de l'aménagement écosystémique des forêts, qui vise la réduction des écarts entre les paysages naturels et les paysages aménagés, nous a poussés à développer un volet important de connaissances sur la dynamique de la végétation par le biais de différentes méthodes du domaine de l'écologie historique.

L'une des techniques utilisée consiste à étudier les notes contenues dans les archives du greffe de l'arpenteur général du Québec. Ces données, spatialement précises, permettent la reconstitution de la composition forestière préindustrielle des végétations potentielles de la toposéquence. Dans la vallée de la rivière Gatineau située dans la région de l'Outaouais, les résultats montrent que les hauts de pente aujourd'hui dominés par l'érable à sucre (*Acer saccharum* Marsh.) étaient davantage représentés par le hêtre à grandes feuilles (*Fagus grandifolia* Ehrh.), le bouleau jaune (*Betula alleghaniensis* Britton) et la pruche du Canada (*Tsuga canadensis* [L.] Carr.) Les mi-pentes à peupliers (*Populus* spp.) et à sapin baumier (*Abies balsamea* [L.] Mill.) étaient davantage dominés par des couverts résineux. Les pins (*Pinus strobus* L. et *P. resinosa* Ait.) étaient bien présents sur l'ensemble de la toposéquence alors qu'actuellement ils sont surtout situés sur les dépôts minces ou à texture grossière. Les résultats nous aident à mieux comprendre la dynamique des paysages de la forêt tempérée nord américaine.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

9:15 - 9:35

Local F-210

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## *Growth of northern white-cedar regeneration: the challenge of managing stands with browsing pressure*

Northern white-cedar (*Thuja occidentalis* L.) is used in a variety of products, but is also important for biodiversity and wildlife. This dual role of white-cedar greatly complicates the management of pure and mixedwood stands. In this study, we quantified the development of white-cedar seedlings and saplings from sexual or asexual origin in different partial cutting regimes and browsing pressure contexts. Three sites were selected, two in Quebec, Canada (Outaouais Region and Papineau-Labelle wildlife reserve), and one in Maine, United States (Penobscot Experimental Forest [PEF]). In Quebec, with relatively low white-tailed deer density, time needed to reach 30 cm is 6 years for layers and 12 years for seedlings, while it is respectively 21 and 29 years to reach 130 cm. Partial canopy opening increases height growth by increasing available light (an increase of 10% of available light index, between 20 and 30% light, results in an additional height increment of about 7.5 cm/yr) and ground-level diameter increment (75% of stems showed a rapid and persistent response to harvesting). However, in stands with heavy deer browsing, regeneration dynamics are greatly different. White-cedar regeneration was established in all studied stands, including in the PEF with high deer density, but white-cedar stems rarely reached over 30 cm tall. This constitutes a major challenge in stands subjected to heavy deer browsing, such as the PEF, where abundance of cedar seedlings smaller than 30 cm has remained constant for more than 40 years, without recruitment to taller height classes. Based on growth data, seedlings that successfully recruit to the sapling class remain vulnerable to browsing for more than 30 years. Efforts to control browsing pressure are therefore recommended, as well as release of white-cedar saplings through precommercial treatments, thinning, and partial canopy opening (ex. irregular shelterwood systems, selection cutting) to accelerate their growth.



## *Comparaison des caractéristiques dendrométriques et du panier de produits de différentes modalités d'éclaircies commerciales en plantation au Bas-Saint-Laurent*

Le Bas-Saint-Laurent compte près de 80 000 ha de jeunes forêts qui pourront être traitées en éclaircie commerciale d'ici 2022. La réalisation d'un tel chantier d'éclaircies commerciales soulève des défis, notamment la mécanisation des opérations et la gestion des petits bois dans un contexte régional de surplus de copeaux. D'autre part, l'éclaircie commerciale pourrait être modulée pour être utilisée comme moyen sylvicole dans l'aménagement écosystémique, entre autres dans la restauration de peuplements à structure complexe, mais on s'interroge sur la faisabilité et les résultats d'une telle modulation. L'objectif de cette étude était de comparer les paramètres dendrométriques avant et après éclaircie, la valeur du peuplement résiduel, le panier de produits et les coûts de récolte entre différentes modalités d'éclaircie commerciale mécanisée en plantation. Les modalités d'éclaircie qui sont comparées sont l'éclaircie par le bas, l'éclaircie par le bas avec espacement, l'éclaircie par le bas à densité variable et l'éclaircie neutre par dégagement d'arbres élites. Différentes variables dendrométriques ont été mesurées avant et après éclaircie : DHP, volume par tige, surface terrière et volume du peuplement. La valeur du peuplement résiduel a été évaluée. Des billes issues des différents traitements ont également été sciées en usine afin de comparer le panier de produits. Les résultats montrent que l'éclaircie par le bas donne une meilleure valeur résiduelle du peuplement après traitement que les autres modalités d'éclaircie. Le panier de produits issus de l'éclaircie neutre par dégagement d'arbres élites et de l'éclaircie par le bas avec espacement est toutefois plus intéressant, contenant moins de sciures et copeaux et beaucoup plus de pièces de 2x4 et 2x6 pour un meilleur rendement matière en usine. Les coûts de récolte sont également plus faibles dans ces éclaircies. L'éclaircie commerciale par le bas avec espacement et l'éclaircie neutre par dégagement d'arbres élites seront dorénavant utilisées au Bas-Saint-Laurent.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

9:35 - 9:55

Local E-408



## *Évaluation de la qualité de la fibre par une nouvelle méthode de diagnostic, le résistographe.*

Les industries forestières dans la région Côte-Nord sont particulièrement touchées par les dégâts causés par la carie du bois. Ces champignons posent un réel problème dans l'utilisation de la fibre due à la perte de valeur engendrée par la dégradation fongique. Cette découverte tardive de la décoloration de la matière ligneuse occasionne des pertes pour des industries, car la fibre perd de sa valeur sur le marché. Les copeaux contenant les échantillons infectés par la carie posent également un problème sur la qualité de la fibre destinée aux pâtes à papier. Le CEDFOB envisage dans ce projet de développer une méthodologie simple, capable de diagnostiquer sur site la présence des champignons lignicoles provoquant la détérioration de la matière ligneuse à l'aide d'un résistographe. Cet appareil relate la résistance de la fibre à la pénétration d'une aiguille en inscrivant le résultat des mesures sur un graph. Les billes de bois seront évaluées avec le résistographe, puis tronçonnées afin de mesurer la surface de la coupe occupée par la carie ou le mycélium. Ces données permettront d'établir une corrélation entre les mesures obtenues par le résistographe et celles obtenues grâce à l'examen des billes tronçonnées. L'utilisation du résistographe pour diagnostiquer rapidement l'état d'altération de la fibre, permettrait d'anticiper sur son niveau de dégradation en forêt et de rentabiliser le travail des professionnels forestiers qui ne prélèveront que la fibre de qualité et saine.



## *Growth and wood quality of residual black spruce and balsam fir after cutting with protection of small merchantable stems*

The use of partial harvesting has been increasing in recent years as a way to balance timber production and ecosystem management. Cutting with protection of small merchantable stems (CPPTM in Quebec) is a partial harvesting practice where a significant proportion of forest cover (70 to 90% of the merchantable volume) is harvested and where the regeneration, saplings and small merchantable stems (DBH classes 10 to 14 cm) are also carefully protected. These residual trees can maintain their growth and could possibly reach the dominant stratum within the stand and later, be harvested on a shorter rotation. The canopy opening resulting from this type of partial cutting provides new conditions for the residual trees: the lesser competition allows for more light and a greater quantity of water and nutrients, whereas the soil can be more easily heated by sunlight. All these factors should promote growth. However, increased growth could result in reduced timber quality, especially in regard to the mechanical properties and wood density. This project aims to evaluate the effect of CPPTM on growth and wood quality parameters of residual trees within black spruce-balsam fir stands in the boreal forest. Stem volume and diameter increment were measured on dominant and codominant stems. Wood quality was evaluated using five parameters: mechanical properties (MOE, MOR), latewood percentage, branch diameter, wood density and tracheid length. Residual trees displayed large positive growth responses (volume and diameter) after the CPPTM, without a significant change in the wood quality parameters studied. Results suggest that CPPTM seems to be an interesting silvicultural option to promote growth without significantly affecting wood quality.





## *Spruce budworm is back. What don't we know, and can we intervene early to reduce outbreaks?*

Evidence is mounting that Eastern North America is on the cusp of another widespread spruce budworm (SBW) outbreak. In Québec, SBW defoliation increased from <3,000 hectares in 2003 to >3.2 million hectares in 2013. SBW is the most damaging and most studied forest insect in North America. Detailed analyses of economic effects of SBW outbreaks in NB along with assumptions to estimate potential direct and indirect economic losses for forest have indicated that potential losses of a moderate to severe SBW outbreak in eastern Canada and Maine could total \$41.5 billion to \$59.0 billion over 30 years.

In this presentation, I will address three topics:

- 1) SBW population dynamics and impacts have been studied for decades. What do we know, and what are the most important things that we do not know about SBW outbreaks?
- 2) Is the forest significantly different now from past outbreaks, and is that apt to alter outbreak dynamics and impacts? and
- 3) How might an early intervention strategy (EIS) to suppress SBW population growth and prevent damage work, and why might it be successful?

I will describe a large 4-year SBW EIS research project that began in 2014. An EIS against SBW would involve: i) intensive monitoring and early detection, ii) small area target-specific pesticide application, and iii) tools and techniques to disrupt mating and migration. Recent research by the Canadian Forest Service has indicated promising results from applying an aggressive EIS. Important research issues to address include: What are the early indicators of an infestation? When should treatment be initiated? What new tools and technology need to be developed? The SBW EIS project is funded by federal and provincial governments and industry, and includes over 30 researchers and collaborators from Canadian Forest Service, University of New Brunswick and four other universities, NB DNR, and forestry companies. Field studies are being conducted in northern NB and in Quebec.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

16:10 - 16:30

Local E-408



## *Optimisation du potentiel de déploiement d'outils diagnostiques de génomique forestière au Canada*

Les récentes avancées scientifiques en génomique forestière présentent une opportunité intéressante pour répondre à la nouvelle commande sociale d'une gestion forestière plus écosystémique. Il a été démontré que l'utilisation d'outils diagnostiques, telle la sélection assistée par marqueurs moléculaires (SAMM), combinée à une démarche d'aménagement intensif et à une approche de zonage fonctionnel, présentent plusieurs bénéfices. Cette étude a pour objectif de comprendre quelle place est offerte au déploiement d'outils diagnostiques de la génomique forestière au Canada en comparant les environnements institutionnels et politiques des principales provinces productrices de bois. Une analyse de la documentation a permis de construire un portrait de ces environnements. Les principales orientations en matière de gestion des forêts offrant un potentiel pour le déploiement des outils de la génomique forestière ont été identifiées et documentées. Une typologie des instruments de politique publique (IPP) susceptibles d'interagir avec l'intégration des outils diagnostiques a été réalisée et les obstacles possibles identifiés. Un diagramme de la communauté politique du déploiement des outils diagnostiques en réponse aux orientations gouvernementales préalablement identifiées a été réalisé. Une enquête auprès de groupes d'acteurs de la communauté politique a permis de connaître la perception des instances gouvernementales, de l'industrie forestière et d'auditeurs indépendants de la norme FSC en regard du déploiement des outils diagnostiques comme outil de gestion des forêts au Québec et Nouveau Brunswick. En tenant compte de la perception de ces acteurs décisionnels et de la situation institutionnelle et politique actuelle, nous sommes en mesure de proposer une démarche stratégique éducative visant à optimiser le potentiel de déploiement des outils diagnostiques de la génomique forestière au Québec et Nouveau-Brunswick.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Samedi 18 octobre 2014 / Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 2014

9:20 - 9:40

Local E-304



## *Quantifying the effect of competition on tree crowns using TLiDAR*

Crown structure determines the amounts of light intercepted by trees and therefore their growth and eventually stand productivity. Competition between trees during their whole life constrains the space crowns can occupy. However, due to the inaccessibility of the canopy, tree crowns and the effects of competitors on their structure are often quantified in 2D with inaccurate data. In the last few years, TLiDAR (« Terrestrial Light Detection and Ranging ») is increasingly used in forestry, which pushes the limits of crown interaction studies into 3D. TLiDAR provides a very accurate 3D representation of the forest as a point cloud. We propose a method to analyze the cloud points in order to quantify the effect of competition on the crown of target-trees. More precisely, the observed crown is compared to a theoretical crown, similar to a form factor. Crown structures are defined by several volumes fitted on the 3D point cloud using convex-hull and alpha-shape-3D algorithms. Competition zones are defined by high density points around the target tree. The ratio of observed to theoretical crown volumes are then related to the competition metrics obtained from the competition zones. Competition is thus based on canopy density rather than on individuals. This approach, based on very accurate 3D data to measure both crown attributes and competition, allows for a better understanding of how trees occupy the space in the canopy.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

16:10 - 16:30

Local E-303



## *Complementarity of private and public forest tenure in Bas-Saint-Laurent: from research to implementation for ecosystem-based management*

A concept of complementarity of forest tenures, taken from theory to practice, is presented here. First, a study compares and contrasts public (under timber supply and forest management agreement) and private (non-industrial woodlots) forests in the Lower St. Lawrence region, which have an equal share of a single ecological region. Twenty-two watersheds, of a mean area of 50 km<sup>2</sup> and that are partly under private and public tenure, were used as a sample to verify how the structure of forest ecosystems are affected by tenure and how tenure influences the methods of silvicultural work. Differences were found in terms of fragmentation, age of stands, as well as cover type, which show that the gap with respect to natural forest is greater under private tenure. The forest operations data for a decade show that contrasted forest management “recipes”, which explain the differences in the forest structure, in addition to a reduced job creation due to a higher mechanization under public tenure. Finally, a simulation experience suggests that these two modes of tenure can be complementary in order for the regional forest to provide the complete array of benefits that society expects.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

16:50 - 17:10

Local E-303

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## *Ecosystem-based forest management: promising perspectives for the Atlantic-Gaspésie caribou conservation.*

By emulating the effects of natural dynamics in managed forests, ecosystem-based forest management (EBFM) may overcome several environmental issues, such as the conservation of endangered species. The Atlantic-Gaspésie caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*), extremely sensitive to the slightest alteration of its habitat, is an excellent model to verify this hypothesis. The main cause of the decline of this population is identified as an increased predation pressure on calves, which is accentuated by intensive logging. Indeed, the over-representation of young forests within the Gaspésie Peninsula support high densities of black bears (*Ursus americanus*) and coyotes (*Canis latrans*), the main predators of Atlantic-Gaspésie caribou. These omnivorous predators select regenerated forests given the high abundance of berries and alternative preys found in these stands. Thus, the main objective of this study is to verify if EBFM can be an effective conservation strategy for Atlantic-Gaspésie caribou recovery. We tested that by comparing the impacts of ecosystem-based treatments and more intensive logging on habitat attributes used by caribou, its predators and moose (*Alces alces*), the most abundant alternative prey in the study area. We sampled 291 sites along a gradient of harvest intensity, using seven different silvicultural treatments and mature coniferous forests ( $\geq 90$  years-old) as control. Using a partial canonical correspondence analysis (pCCA), we showed that ecosystem-based treatments maintain some habitat attributes that are comparable to what is found in mature forest, including some that are important for caribou, such as a low lateral cover and a dense canopy closure. However, the main advantage of EBFM for the conservation of caribou is certainly the lower food availability provided to predators in the harvested stands.



## *Stand structure and deadwood dynamics in white spruce (*Picea glauca* (Moench) Voss) plantations following alternative commercial thinning*

We examined the effects of alternative commercial thinning on stand structure and deadwood dynamics in six intensively managed white spruce plantations. The objective was to assess changes in stand basal area and volume of coarse woody debris (CWD) and snags following alternative commercial thinning treatments: 1) an unthinned control; and three 40% basal area commercial thinning removals, with 2) slash and tops remaining on site (status quo), 3) branches and tops extracted from site (biomass removal), and 4) clumps of unthinned trees left, and one-half girdled (enhanced). There was no significant difference in diameter at breast height (DBH) and stand basal area between treatments prior to thinning. Three years post-thinning, trees in all three thinned treatments had larger and similar mean DBH (ca. 16.7cm) compared to the unthinned treatment (15.3 cm). Mean basal area was highest in the unthinned treatment (39.9 m<sup>2</sup>/ha) and similar for the thinned treatments (25.2-25.9 m<sup>2</sup>/ha). Basal area increment was also highest in the enhanced (17.9cm<sup>2</sup>/year), followed by the status quo (17.5cm<sup>2</sup>/ha), biomass removal (16.0 cm<sup>2</sup>/ha) and unthinned treatment (12.4 cm<sup>2</sup>/ha). Volume of CWD increased by 13-28% in the status quo and enhanced treatments, by 6% in biomass removal, versus 0.1% in unthinned. Mean snag volume decreased by 0.3-0.8 m<sup>3</sup>/ha in the status quo and enhanced treatments, but increased by 0.03 m<sup>3</sup>/ha and 0.9 m<sup>3</sup>/ha in the biomass removal and unthinned treatments, respectively. The girdled trees added a mean volume of 1.6 m<sup>3</sup>/ha. Commercial thinning in 20-25 year old spruce plantations produced significant increases in stand basal area and small increases in CWD volume. Girdling trees during commercial thinning, at the intensity used in this study, is unlikely to produce sufficient snags and leaving islands and clumps during the harvest before plantation establishment would be a more feasible way of adding structure.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Samedi 18 octobre 2014 / Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 2014

9:00 - 9:20

Local E-303

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## *Visualizing Landscape Connectivity in Canadian Forest Ecosystems*

In the last half-decade, a striking new perspective for modeling functional connectivity has emerged that represents a landscape as being like an electrical circuit, with each land-cover type presenting a different, variable resistance to movement of target organisms. Circuit theory has rapidly proven to be a powerful tool for understanding landscapes, and is likely to soon play a fundamental role in managing forested landscapes across very large areas. But these recent advances have not yet been widely adopted into the management worlds: circuit techniques currently are mostly restricted to use in universities and large organizations, demand considerable computing power, and produce large volumes of geographically explicit data. Given these rapid developments, it is imperative to be able to create and share the results of connectivity assessments needed for implementing current and future forest-management strategies. Here we present how such voluminous connectivity data can (a) be organized and served in a way that can be dynamically viewed through a typical network connection and (b) be updated according to planner's requests with a short turnaround time. Connectivity assessments are likely to play an important role in satisfying the needs of an approaching Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) in 2015. Meeting FSC standards in future years will require sophisticated analysis to ensure that long-term planning on FSC certified Forest Management Units will result in natural levels of core habitat and connectivity in managed landscapes. The tool developed and described here can dynamically display results from complex circuit connectivity analyses, in a 3D fly-through framework controllable by managers, planners, and other users. In this presentation we will explore new connectivity analyses with a Google Earth-driven viewer that uses a tiling strategy with cloud hosting to display multiple layers of scientific data.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

11:55 - 12:15

Local E-408



## *Régénération et résilience des érablières dans un régime de feux récurrents à leur limite nordique de répartition*

Trois érablières situées à leur limite nordique de répartition, en marge de la forêt boréale, ont été sélectionnées afin d'évaluer l'importance prise par les feux et les changements floristiques survenus depuis la déglaciation. L'érable à sucre (*Acer saccharum* Marsh.) est couramment décrit comme une espèce de fin de succession et tolérante à l'ombre. C'est la chablisation du couvert forestier qui aurait maintenu les érablières en état de renouvellement depuis leur établissement mais la présence de charbon de bois dans le sol de quelques stations témoigne de l'occurrence in situ du feu dans le passé. L'identification botanique et la datation au 14C de charbon de bois trouvé en surface et enfoui dans le sol, montrent que les trois stations étudiées ont été sous l'influence d'un régime de feux fréquents depuis les derniers 1000 à 3500 ans. Au moins deux des trois érablières sont apparues après l'Holocène moyen dont l'érablière du Témiscamingue qui s'est formée lors d'un feu survenu à la charnière des 18<sup>e</sup> et 19<sup>e</sup> siècles. Ces résultats mettent en évidence la résilience et la capacité de régénération de l'érablière à l'occasion de perturbations allogènes comme le feu. Les érablières du Québec situées à leur limite d'aire nordique constituent de jeunes écosystèmes à l'échelle de l'Holocène en mesure de se régénérer après le passage de feux récurrents.



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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

14:50 - 15:10

Local E-304



## *A long-term examination of changing species assemblages in a northern hardwood forest*

Long-term forest inventories provide a unique opportunity to quantify changes in forest structure, as well as how changes may deviate from historic models of species succession and biomass accumulation. An examination of a 70-year record on mid-late successional stands at the Bartlett Experimental Forest, NH, USA indicated that species abundances have changed as expected under natural succession, with significant increases in shade tolerant species such as American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), and decreases in early successional species such as paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*). However, interesting deviations were detected, including significant decreases in red (*Acer rubrum*) and sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) resulting from reduced regeneration rates over the survey period. Other deviations included increases in red spruce (*Picea rubens*) biomass at the expense of sympatric balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) and hardwoods at upper elevations. We conclude that while natural succession continues to dominate changes in species demographics, the influence of changing climate and the legacy of acid deposition may be altering competitive dynamics, favoring species like red spruce and American beech over their common counterparts in northeastern forests.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

15:30 - 15:50

Co-auteurs / Co-authors:

Local E-304

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Hugues Power, Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs du Québec



## *Patch-selection cutting, a sound method for yellow birch production in Eastern Canada?*

In Eastern Canada, yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis* Britton) is one of the most valuable species for wood production. This intermediate shade-tolerant species requires canopy opening and soil disturbance to regenerate. In yellow birch-balsam fir (*Abies balsamea* L.) stands, patch-selection combined with spot scarification often succeeds in establishing yellow birch, but long-term effects on growth and stem quality need to be assessed. The latter is a major issue given yellow birch proneness to epicormic branching when suddenly exposed to light.

Data was collected in the SSAM project (Silvicultural Systems Adapted to the Mixedwood forest), 100 km north of Québec City, Canada. This experiment comprises 20 experimental units (1-ha) testing five treatments: uncut control, patch clearcut and three 45% patch-selection cutting patterns combining harvest by circular gaps (20 m, 30 m, 40 m) to 33% single-tree selection cutting. In addition to DBH, crown radii, total height, and bole length, number of epicormic branches and faces affected were recorded on yellow birches surrounding gaps (border trees).

While there were no difference among patch-selection treatments and control in net increment after ten years, there were differences among species, balsam fir being the most dynamic (higher mortality, higher recruitment). Border trees had the best stem increment, but experienced high levels of epicormic branching (79% of birches). Abundance of epicormic branches and number of faces affected were inversely related to pre-cut DBH. If those branches persist, clear bole length and wood value could decrease. Thus, establishing large gaps near patches of pole-size yellow birches should be avoided in these stands.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

15:30 - 15:50

Local E-408



## *Qu'est que vous pensez sur l'avenir de l'industrie forestière ?*

L'industrie forestière au Québec est en transformation. Des facteurs externes tels que le coût de l'énergie et la substitution du papier journal ont affecté la compétitivité de ses filières, mais l'ont aussi poussée à développer de nouveaux produits. L'objectif de cette recherche est d'illustrer les diverses voies d'avenir et de révéler les principaux choix stratégiques qui sont critiques pour l'avenir. Basée sur un diagnostic dynamique du secteur productif et de leurs relations avec son environnement externe, l'approche de la prospective stratégique nous a permis d'envisager différents scénarios du futur. Par une enquête Delphi, des experts forestiers ont été sollicités afin de connaître leur perception sur l'influence des tendances mondiales sur la performance de l'industrie forestière et du rôle à jouer de chacun des acteurs et facteurs clés. Des moteurs de l'avenir tels que l'innovation technologique, la reprise du marché américain, la production d'énergie à partir de biomasse et la demande de produits verts sont identifiés. Les groupes appelés à mettre en œuvre des mesures pour l'amélioration de l'industrie sont principalement l'État, l'industrie, les universités et les centres de recherche. Les opinions sur l'avenir des différentes filières sont diversifiées tout comme les stratégies pour leur développement. Où devront mettre les efforts l'industrie, le gouvernement et les investisseurs? À quels défis devra faire face l'industrie pour se reprendre? Les résultats de cette étude apporteront un soutien aux gestionnaires de la forêt pour la prise de décision au niveau des stratégies d'intervention pour l'aménagement des forêts.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

11:35 - 11:55

Local E-303



## *L'utilisation d'indicateurs financiers pour gérer le risque dans la modélisation de l'approvisionnement du bois*

L'analyse de risques implique l'utilisation de données historiques pour déterminer la fréquence des événements imprévus tels que les feux de forêts et l'importance de leurs conséquences. La gestion des forêts se base actuellement sur un approvisionnement soutenu à long terme, prédit avec des modèles de planification déterministes. Dans cette étude, nous avons utilisé des indicateurs utilisés dans le monde de la finance pour gérer le risque. Ces indicateurs comme le potentiel de hausse, la valeur d'opportunité et le ratio de zone à risque sont basés sur les distributions de probabilité cumulatives des approvisionnements potentiels face au risque. La méthodologie a été appliquée à une unité d'aménagement de 1,08 million d'hectares dans la forêt boréale canadienne de l'est en comparant deux stratégies d'aménagement, soit une stratégie d'aménagement écosystémique et une stratégie de normalisation de la forêt. Deux régimes de feu ont été considérés, soit le régime actuel (cycle de 400 ans – 1920-2000) et le régime historique (cycle de 200 ans – 1750-2000). Face aux risques induits par le feu, le ratio de zone à risque reste comparable pour les deux stratégies d'aménagement alors que la valeur d'opportunité est plus élevée pour une stratégie d'aménagement écosystémique. Dans le cas présent, le risque est plus lié à la structure d'âge de la forêt et au niveau de possibilité qu'à la stratégie en tant que telle.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

15:10 - 15:30

Local E-304

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## *Fifty years of data from the Management Intensity Demonstration Study at the Penobscot Experimental Forest in Maine*

A 1946, national appraisal of commercial forest lands within the United States designated timber cutting practices into one of five categories: "High-Order", "Good", "Fair", "Poor", and "Destructive". Following the findings from this assessment and inadequacies of cutting practices in the northern conifer forest type, the Management Intensity Demonstration (MID, previously called Cutting Practice Level Study) was initiated by the USDA Forest Service in 1950 at that Penobscot Experimental Forest in Maine. The MID was designed to demonstrate differences over time between four of the original five cutting categories: 5-year selection system (High-Order), 15-year selection system (Good), 15-year fixed diameter limit cutting (Fair), and commercial clearcutting (also called unregulated harvesting, Poor). In subsequent years, the commercial clearcut was divided into three additional treatments: no additional cutting, repeated commercial clearcutting, and overstory removal with precommercial thinning. Over the following decades, observations and data collection continued for each of the cutting practice levels, revealing important differences in species composition, volume growth, tree quality, and stocking. We will review long-term findings, compare them to previously published short-term (10-year) results, and discuss implications for sustainable forest management.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

11:15 - 11:35

Local E-303

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## *Growth response of northern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) to natural disturbances and partial cuts in mixedwood stands of Quebec, Canada*

Northern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) is a species of high commercial and ecological value, the abundance of which has been declining since the middle of the 19th C. Very little information regarding its silviculture in mixedwood stands is currently available, even though a significant portion of wood resources comes from these stands. The present study is a retrospective analysis of cedar growth in partially harvested mixedwood stands of western Quebec, Canada. Eight stands distributed across two regions were analyzed. Dendrochronological approaches examined long-term diameter growth for sample cedar trees and stems of associated species. These approaches were used to reconstruct stand characteristics at the time of harvesting, together with local harvesting intensity. The study demonstrated white cedar's capacity to maintain good growth for long periods of time and at large tree sizes. Accession to the main canopy occurs through repeated episodes of suppression/release, most of which seems to be associated with spruce budworm (*Choristoneura fumiferana*) outbreaks. Cedar response to partial harvesting varies with tree size, residual basal area and species composition. Growth response was generally stronger for small trees, even though large trees still maintained the best diameter growth. Growth of cedar was negatively affected by an increase in softwood content. Growth responses to harvesting could be sustained for a period of 20 years.



## *Restoring natural attributes of Acadian forest: Rationale and applications*

Classical forest management strategy applied in several regions of the Acadian Forest over the last century has prompted several lasting changes in ecosystem structure and function. The application of the new forest regime in the public forest of the province involves a progressive reduction of the differences in structure and composition between natural and managed forests. A committee composed of forest managers, industry representatives and experts was appointed by the regional government in order to propose quantitative targets and silvical approaches to meet these goals. This committee spent about 10 days interspersed by research intervals over two years to accomplish its task. This committee agreed on a plan that explicitly addresses the restoration goals associated to the main natural attributes that should be restored: age structure of the forest mosaic, uneven-irregular age structure of stands, area of interior forest, connectivity between large forest expanses, snags and coarse woody debris and rarefying tree species. The current age structure of the regional forest opens a unique window of opportunity for structural conversion of middle, even-aged coniferous forest. Until now, five operational-scale experiments of structural conversion from even-aged to uneven-irregular have been implemented in the region. These involve a first thinning through elite-tree release approach along with small forest openings. The preliminary results suggest that the small openings offer the best conditions for artificial regeneration of long-living tree species while elite-tree release produce the best return per cubic meter of harvested stems, compared to conventional thinning practice. Overall, these results suggest that elite-tree release thinning coupled with small opening may be a viable approach to undergo structural conversion of even-aged forest. In the long run, it is suggested that the restoration of uneven-irregular forest through silviculture could contribute to reach several sustainable forest management goals.



## *Job habitat - An index to understand changes in the socio-economic potential of forest stands*

Forests provide many benefits to society such as employment. However, those benefits are also dependant on highly variable factors such as technology, markets and regulations. Thus, we cannot rely on the current level of benefits to infer on the state of the forest or that of its sustainability. In that context, an index of the socio-economic potential of forest stands inspired by the concept of wildlife habitat is proposed to isolate the capacity of the forest to support benefits from the actual level of benefits observed. A case study over 3.3 million hectares was performed to test the feasibility of the approach and to identify the main challenges. Employment factors for different sectors (silviculture, logging, different wood products manufacturing sectors, maple sap production) were developed and related to stand characteristics. The resulting model made it possible to spatially represent the employment potential that every stand could theoretically support in its current state. The index allows us to monitor the amplitude and location of changes in potential with time, technology, markets and regulations. The spatial nature of the index also allows us to identify areas of conflicting potential and provides a powerful tool for communicating the effects of policy changes.



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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

9:35 - 9:55

Local E-304

Co-auteurs / Co-authors:

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## *Impacts of white spruce plantation type, age and thinning on habitat quality and use by moose in eastern Canada*

Forest and wildlife management are closely related, and conciliation efforts between these two fields of expertise are strongly needed. For example, forest management certification promotes responsible harvesting strategies that respect both environmental and social standards. In this study, we assessed the impacts of plantation type, age and thinning on habitat quality and use by moose (*Alces alces*) in the Bas-Saint-Laurent region, Québec, Canada. Moose densities are very high in this region (up to 48 moose / 10 km<sup>2</sup>), and moose hunting represents an important driver of the regional economy (~26 M\$ annually). Two types of white spruce plantations were compared to naturally regenerated cutovers (controls): standard plantations (2000 stems/ha), which promote high softwood supplies, and alternative experimental plantations (1350 stems/ha) in which rows of planted stems are separated by natural regeneration. We tested the influence of plantation type, age (5, 10 and 15 years after cut), and thinning (performed or not) on moose habitat quality (browsing opportunities and cover) and habitat use (number of fecal pellets and proportion of browsed stems, used as indices of relative abundance). We measured these variables in 2013 in 539 sampling plots distributed among all combinations of treatments (plantation type, age, thinning). Moose habitat quality differed between treatments, with higher stem densities in experimental plantations compared to standard plantations and controls. Naturally regenerated cutovers supported higher abundances of fecal pellets than the two types of plantations; however, the proportion of browsed stems was significantly higher in the experimental plantation compared to the standard one. The number of fecal pellets decreased with thinning and increased with age, while the proportion of browsed stems decreased with age. Our study suggests that alternative plantation designs could be suitable for moose where cutovers do not regenerate naturally.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Samedi 18 octobre 2014 / Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 2014

9:40 - 10:00

Local E-408

Co-auteurs / Co-authors:

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Dominique Gravel, Université du Québec à Rimouski



## *A framework for cross-scale integration for predicting tree range shifts under climate change*

Predictive models of species ranges are widely used in ecology and biogeography, particularly with respect to forecasting the effects of climate change on biodiversity. Often, these models do not utilize all available information about a species. For example, a broad-scale correlative model might use climate variables to predict presence/absence, but ignore data about important processes such as growth, mortality, and dispersal. If responses climate change are complex, non-linear, or if important processes are missing from the model, predictions for the future may be highly biased, even while fitting present distributions very well. For forested ecosystems, this oversight is particularly problematic due to widespread availability of multi-scale data in the form of forest inventory datasets. We used Hierarchical Bayesian methods to develop a flexible framework for integrating models at multiple scales; the model produces probabilistic estimates of species presence with uncertainty that propagates from all submodels. These predictions reflect all of the information used as input for the original submodels. We applied the framework to a species distribution model (SDM) for sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) with the goal of integrating presence-absence records with phenological information (from the model Phenofit) to predict the future distribution of the species and quantify the uncertainty in those predictions. In most geographic regions, the integrated model produced predictions that were intermediate between a naïve SDM and the Phenofit predictions. Integration resulted in greatly reduced uncertainty in areas where the SDM was highly uncertain, and moderately increased uncertainty in regions where the SDM had the least uncertainty. Overall, the integrated model encompassed a wider range of future possibilities (i.e., greater uncertainty in the predicted species distribution), likely reflecting the disagreement between the predictions of both submodels, and thus likely reflects a less biased (though more uncertain) view of the present state of knowledge for sugar maple.



## *Réaction convergente du volume marchand dix ans après l'éclaircie d'une sapinière en stagnation*

Le processus écologique d'autoéclaircie est essentiel au développement des forêts. Cependant, il ne s'opère pas toujours efficacement, ce qui mène certaines sapinières boréales à la stagnation. L'absence d'autoéclaircie peut aussi engendrer une perte de biodiversité et diminuer les services écosystémiques comme la production de matière ligneuse. Les principes sylvicoles du traitement d'éclaircie se basent sur le processus d'autoéclaircie. L'objectif de l'étude était de vérifier si l'application de ce traitement pouvait remplacer le processus d'autoéclaircie afin de stimuler le développement et interrompre la stagnation d'une sapinière très dense rendue à l'âge de la récolte. Dans un cadre expérimental, nous avons suivi l'évolution de cette sapinière soumise à trois intensités d'éclaircie par le bas. Dix ans après l'intervention, les placettes fortement éclaircies avaient retrouvé un volume marchand similaire à celles non traitées, mais ce volume était distribué sur 43 % moins d'arbres, dont le diamètre quadratique moyen était 16 % plus grand. Il s'agit d'un des premiers cas recensés de réaction convergente du volume marchand après éclaircie. Nous recommandons l'éclaircie comme moyen de remplacer l'autoéclaircie naturelle dans les sapinières en stagnation, de façon à rétablir leur développement ainsi que leurs services écosystémiques.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

11:55 - 12:15

Local E-303

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## *Optimisation of the economic value of integrated forest management in Gaspésie region: a decision-making support tool*

Integrated forest management aims to enhance and optimize, by a cooperative management and consultation process, the benefits of forest usage and resources for the community. To attain such a goal, it is advantageous for stakeholders and managers to have decision-making support tools that allow them to predict the impact of management decisions on the simultaneous optimization of multiple usage and resources. However, given the complexity of building a model that permits the simultaneous optimization of multiple usage and resources, to our knowledge, such a tool does not exist in Québec. The objective of this study was to build a decision-making support tool that allows the optimization of the economic value of the public Gaspe Peninsula's forest resources, given different management scenarios. Remsoft's Woodstock software was used in order to build this decision-making support tool that consists of a forest territory management model. The model includes: 1) a description of the analyzed forest landscape according to the potential presence of each resources, the physical environment and the current forest management ; 2) the evolution of the landscape through time according to the forest strata's and resource's yield curves, the actions undertaken in the study area, and the transition following an action; 3) scenarios that contain a common objective of optimizing the economic value of the landscape but with different constraints and ; 4) the outputs of the actions, the production of each resource and the economic value created by the optimization. The following forest activities were included in the model: timber harvesting, moose and deer hunting, edible forest mushroom harvesting, cultivated and wild blueberry harvesting, maple syrup production, fir branch harvesting, commercial resorts, downhill skiing and long-distance trekking. Total economic value (in dollars) was used as a comparison measure between scenarios since it permits to calculate the overall values generated by the different resources. A comparison was made between three scenarios with different constraints, which maximize the total economic value of the territory. These results should permit forest stakeholders and managers to better orientate the Gaspe Peninsula public forest resources usage in order to maximized collective wealth.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

11:55- 12:15

Local E-304



## *Topkill of balsam fir and spruce trees during an uncontrolled spruce budworm outbreak on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia*

Often during spruce budworm (SBW; *Choristoneura fumiferana*) outbreaks, if a tree is not killed, its upper crown alone will be killed, a condition known as topkill. Topkill results in reductions in current tree height, skewed height-diameter relationship, and deformities that may reduce timber quality. This condition is presently omitted from the SBW decision support system due to a lack of topkill-defoliation relationships. In the current study we analyzed topkill patterns and topkill-defoliation relationships over the course of a severe, uncontrolled SBW outbreak from 1974-1985 on Cape Breton Island, in Nova Scotia. As part of a study on this outbreak, Ostaff and MacLean (1989; Can. J. For. Res.) recorded annual defoliation and tree condition of 1270 trees in 20 permanent sample plots from 1979-1987, including when trees had topkill  $\geq 100$ cm in length. By 1979, 61% measured trees had already suffered topkill. In 1987, only 252 trees remained alive, 67% of which had topkill at some point during the outbreak. In the absence of mortality, topkill percentages increased with maximum cumulative host defoliation. In the 26-50, 51-75, 76-90, and 91-100% cumulative defoliation classes, 64, 68, 79, and 89% of trees had topkill at some point. However, mortality also increased with peak cumulative defoliation with 12, 59, 85, and 98% of trees dying, respectively, in these defoliation classes. In 1987, only 5% of surviving trees with topkill had a maximum cumulative defoliation of  $\geq 90\%$  while 80% experienced a maximum cumulative defoliation of 51-90%. In a 25-year post-outbreak, a re-assessment was conducted on 30 tagged surviving trees, 25 of which had suffered topkill at some point during the outbreak. Severe deformities were present on 80% of these trees, with a mean of 57% of the bole located above the defect. These results suggest that the effects of topkill should be studied further during the present outbreak.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

10:55 - 11:15

Local E-408

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## *Difficult migration of temperate tree species in the boreal forest under climate change?*

A majority of studies on ecotones, which are transitional areas expected to be particularly sensitive to climate change, focus on the transition between forest and non-forest ecosystems. However, little attention has been given to evaluate the dynamics between two forest ecosystems such as the temperate-boreal ecotone. The equilibrium distribution of the two forest types is largely related to climate at the continental scale, and it is therefore expected that temperate trees will expand northward in the coming decades. However, the observed distribution of the two forests in the ecotone area is patchy and highly variable, suggesting that they may coexist as alternative stable states under the same climatic conditions at the landscape scale. We hypothesize that a positive plant-soil feedback may operate, as both types of forest stands change the seedbed conditions in a way that favors their own regeneration. If this hypothesis is correct, the initial composition of patches would influence the migration of temperate tree species. Otherwise, the patchiness might be the result of transient dynamics. We explore these hypotheses using a state and transition model of landscape dynamics, parameterized on an extensive database of 160,000 forest plots widely distributed along a latitudinal gradient in the east of America. We found that the observed transitions between the different states successfully predicted the location of the ecotone. We also found, despite the absence of alternative stable states, a significant variability in landscape composition at the transition between temperate and boreal forests suggesting that some part of the landscape is currently transient, creating the patchy structure that we observe. These results emphasize the role of disturbances such as fire or logging which maintain a high proportion of transient forests. This model predicts not only the equilibrium state but also the transitions and delay to reach the equilibrium forest composition, which is of prime importance for forest management.

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Présentation orale / Oral presentation

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

14:50 - 15:1

Local E-408

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## *Negotiating indigenous collaboration in forestry in Quebec, Canada: Finding pathways through multiple processes and actors*

Indigenous peoples' roles in Canadian forestry have expanded enormously during recent decades, encouraged by a variety of policies and programs from governments, industry and indigenous organizations. While researchers have examined many models of collaboration, along with the interests and roles of participants, less attention has been paid to possible interactions between different processes or the effects of these. We undertook case studies with three indigenous communities in Quebec, Canada, identifying the range of different forest-related processes in which each community had engaged over the last twenty years. Focusing on critical processes, we examined the links between various processes, the outcomes of these and the relations between parties, both indigenous and non-indigenous. Our results highlight the complexity of each case, both in relation to the actors and the processes. Characteristics of actors include not only values, objectives and knowledge, but also perceptions of other actors, of context and institutions and of available options. Processes each have their own rules and resources, affecting actors' behavior within the process and leading to changes in situations, in processes and in actors themselves. Mapping this complexity helps explain why the results of a single policy or program can be so different depending upon the situation.







## *A Bayesian approach for estimating tree mortality using semi parametric methods*

The ecology of tree mortality is a complex process that, for a variety of reasons, makes it difficult to collect quantitative data. Traditionally, mortality is a rare event comprising of complex processes thereby making this phenomenon difficult to effectively estimate. Mixed species plots also introduce complexity into the estimation of mortality as different species can have different life history strategies and different functional traits that drive mortality. And so for all of these reasons, I propose a semi parametric Bayesian approach to more efficiently estimate species-specific tree mortality that could be used in models of individual tree growth. The use of nonparametric methods allows us to overcome some of the difficulties in capturing the complex shape of mortality (Metcalf et al. 2009). The inclusion of priors in a Bayesian framework will help to compensate for the lack of observed mortality data. The introduction of external knowledge used to update an observed data set intuitively provides a natural framework for ecology following the paradigms of adaptive management. Bayesian methods can be exact for finite data sets compared to maximum likelihood methods, which can be particularly useful for cases such as this where sparse data sets are common. Models will be developed using data available from Québec data sets. Preliminary analyses of individual mortality of Balsam Fir including only one covariate of DBH show a slight decrease in residual deviance of 9564.7 in the semi parametric Bayesian methods with a non-informative prior from 9688.8 in a standard glm model. The inclusion of informative priors are expected to further reduce residual deviance resulting in a more accurate method for estimating tree mortality.

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## *Allocation de la biomasse entre le tronc et les racines, selon la richesse du site chez les sapins baumiers (*Abies balsamea*)*

Les plantes ont une multitude de systèmes qui leur permettent de se développer et de s'adapter selon les différents changements auxquels elles font face. L'un de ces systèmes importants est le système racinaire. La plasticité que démontrent les racines face à leur environnement peut avoir d'importants impacts sur l'allocation des ressources ainsi que sur la croissance des plantes. La dynamique tronc/racine amène les plantes à répartir la biomasse disponible aux différents organes qui la compose, et ce, selon le milieu où elle se développe. L'objectif général de ce projet est d'établir, par une analyse dendrochronologique, les relations entre la croissance du tronc et des racines du sapin baumier (*Abies balsamea*). Au total, deux rondelles (tronc, racine) ont été prélevées sur 121 arbres dominants de 61 placettes-échantillons situées dans la ZEC du Bas-Saint-Laurent. La croissance des dix derniers cernes des racines et des disques prélevés au DHP a été analysée grâce au logiciel OSM (SCIEM 2002). Dans ces mêmes placettes, des analyses de sol ont été réalisées pour établir la concentration en  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  et en azote dans l'humus (O) et l'horizon B. L'allocation entre le tronc et les racines, quantifiée à l'aide du rapport de croissance diamétrale tronc/racine, sera mise en lien avec les conditions édaphiques et biotiques du milieu. Il sera alors possible d'établir quelles sont les variables environnementales qui favorisent l'allocation au tronc et selon quel gradient. Ces informations pourront aider les gestionnaires à mieux comprendre l'impact de leurs choix sur la croissance des arbres.

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Affiche / Poster

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

17:10- 18:00

Co-auteurs / Co-authors:

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## *Impact of logging on the structure of pre-industrial forests in south-eastern Canada*

More than 100 years of timber production in the Lower St. Lawrence region of eastern Canada have modified the structure and composition of forests. During the 20th century, old uneven-aged and conifer-dominated forest communities were progressively replaced by young shade-intolerant stands. However, precise evaluations of forest structural changes are still lacking, due to the almost complete disappearance of natural forest stands that could serve as a reference state. The objective of this study is to reconstruct the structure of a preindustrial forest landscape from a detailed survey conducted by the Price Brothers Company between 1928 and 1931. Tree stems were then tallied by diameter and species in several thousand 0.1 ha plots systematically distributed. A systematic re-sampling of 535 of these plots was conducted in the summers of 2012 and 2013 over an area covering 1700 km<sup>2</sup> south of Rimouski. Data of these 535 re-sampled plots were compared between the two periods (1928-1930 and 2012-2013).

Between 1930 and 2013, the total basal area (all species combined) and the total stem density increased. On a species basis, results show that although the frequency of occurrence of conifers (*Abies balsamea*, *Picea* sp. and *Thuja occidentalis*) decreased, their basal area and density increased. Maple and poplar species showed the reverse trend with an increase in their frequency of occurrence. Maple basal area and density increased, while they decreased for poplar. The frequency of occurrence and the basal area of White birch and Yellow birch decreased, while their density increased. We conclude that although the forest landscape is composed of the same species throughout the twentieth century, the forest structure has been altered in terms of basal area and stem density.



***Black spruce susceptibility to Eastern spruce budworm defoliation under a changing climate: phenological and biochemical responses***

The Eastern spruce budworm (*Choristoneura fumiferana*) is Canada's most serious defoliator of balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) and white spruce (*Picea glauca*). However, an epidemic is currently underway on Québec's North Shore in which, for the first time, black spruce (*P. mariana*) is also being seriously affected, potentially leading to a loss of commercial volume. Black spruce has been considered a poor host for the budworm, given its late phenology and less palatable phytochemistry. We hypothesize that an increase in earth's temperature might be advancing budbreak phenology of black spruce, better synchronizing phenology between black spruce and the budworm and potentially improving budworm performance on black spruce. It is therefore important to understand the physiological bases of spruce budworm-black spruce relationship in order to develop predictive tools to manage black spruce stands under this novel disturbance regime. This project examines the effects of black spruce phenology and foliar chemistry on eastern spruce budworm performance using manipulative field and laboratory experiments. The ongoing field experiment aims at testing the effects of varying delays between black spruce budbreak and eastern spruce budworm emergence on budworm performance and correlating them with seasonal changes in leaf chemistry to uncover the roles of black spruce phenology and phytochemistry in its natural resistance to budworm defoliation. Understanding these mechanisms of resistance will be key to developing management techniques for controlling budworm in black spruce. The results of the first year of the field experiment and preliminary conclusions will be presented during the meeting.

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Affiche / Poster

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

17:10- 18:00

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## *Growing sawlogs in 23 years --Another look at the hybrid larches*

Around the Northeast over the years, exotic and hybrid larches (*Larix eurolepis* Henry) have been planted by a variety of agencies and landowners. Hybrids were widely planted in New York state and are now being used for lumber. Recent re-measurements of 20 year and older planted stands in Maine show striking rates of height and diameter growth and indicate significant hybrid vigor as well. Early growth results for Maine plantings have been previously reported in the literature. We are aware of additional examples, usually confined to individuals, small patches, or limited provenance trials, in other areas. Growth rates are far higher and wood quality far better than the native tamarack (*Larix laricina*). Full analysis of these re-measurements will be reported. Preliminary economic consideration suggests financial returns at least as favorable as other species being planted regionally. Concerns for damaging agents and invasiveness are discussed. The widely held perception that "there is no market" is shown to be incorrect.

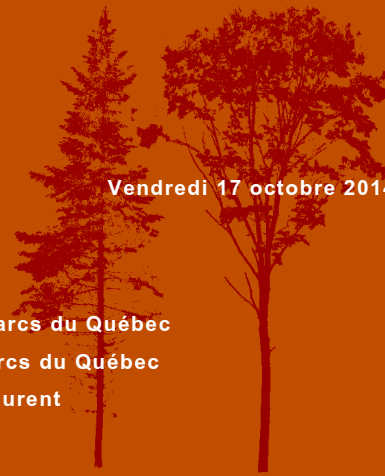
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Isabelle Aubin, Ressources naturelles Canada



## *Naturalité des peuplements du Bas-Saint-Laurent selon un gradient d'intensité sylvicole et une approche d'écologie fonctionnelle*

L'aménagement écosystémique, lequel vise à diminuer les écarts entre la forêt aménagée et la forêt naturelle (i.e. préindustrielle), est une méthode d'aménagement de plus en plus utilisée en Amérique du Nord pour assurer le maintien de la biodiversité. L'écart entre la forêt naturelle et aménagée, aussi appelée naturalité, est défini en regard de la structure et de la composition des écosystèmes et par leur résilience, celle-ci étant notamment influencée par la biodiversité végétale. Une perte de biodiversité associée à une sylviculture intensive pourrait augmenter le risque que l'écosystème bascule en dehors de son spectre de variabilité naturelle et emprunte des trajectoires successionales vers des états alternatifs stables ne pouvant offrir les services écologiques des écosystèmes de référence. De plus, des études démontrent un lien positif entre la productivité ligneuse, la richesse spécifique et la biodiversité fonctionnelle. Notre objectif est donc de mesurer l'effet de l'intensité de la sylviculture sur la productivité, la richesse spécifique et la biodiversité fonctionnelle des écosystèmes forestiers. Nous avons sélectionné des peuplements de même âge et établis sur des types écologiques similaires, représentant une large gamme d'intensités sylvicoles dans le bassin versant de la rivière Rimouski au Bas-Saint-Laurent (Québec). Les scénarios sylvicoles représentés sont : a) sapinière à bouleau jaune et bétulaie jaune à sapin issues de l'épidémie de tordeuse des bourgeons d'épinette (témoin), b) coupes avec protection de la régénération en sapinière à bouleau jaune et bétulaie jaune à sapin, c) plantation d'épinette blanche non entretenue, d) plantations d'épinette blanche entretenues, et e) plantations d'épinette de Norvège entretenues. Des parcelles circulaires de 400 m<sup>2</sup> ont été installées en 2013 et d'autres le seront en 2014 et 2015 pour mesurer la production ligneuse et la diversité végétale en sous-couvert. La banque de traits fonctionnels TOPIC sera utilisée pour évaluer la diversité fonctionnelle. Nous testons l'hypothèse que l'intensité de la sylviculture n'affectera pas la richesse spécifique mais diminuera la diversité fonctionnelle.

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Jean-Daniel Sylvain, Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs du Québec

Guillaume Drolet, Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs du Québec

François Girard, Université de Montréal

Joanie Labonté, Université de Montréal



## *Les nerpruns bourdaine et cathartique : des espèces exotiques envahissantes qui menacent la biodiversité des écosystèmes forestiers du Sud du Québec*

Le nerprun bourdaine (*Rhamnus frangula* L. ou *Frangula alnus* Mill.) et le nerprun cathartique (*Rhamnus cathartica* L.) sont des arbustes exotiques importés d'Europe, bien connus dans l'Est des États-Unis et en Ontario depuis quelques décennies. Par leurs effets sur la flore indigène et sur les sols, ils menacent la biodiversité des écosystèmes. Ces espèces commencent aussi à poser problème aux sylviculteurs du Sud du Québec, notamment lors de l'établissement de plantations. Or, nous en connaissons peu sur la dynamique d'envahissement de ces espèces et leurs impacts sur la régénération forestière dans le contexte québécois. De plus, nous avons peu d'informations concernant la distribution de ces espèces au Québec et l'historique de leur naturalisation. En 2012, nous avons instauré un programme de recherche visant à 1) évaluer les relations compétitives entre ces espèces et les espèces indigènes, 2) tester différentes pratiques de préparation de terrain afin de diminuer l'impact de ces espèces dans des plantations résineuses, et 3) cartographier la distribution de ces espèces dans le Sud du Québec. Un dispositif expérimental a été établi afin de répondre aux objectifs 1 et 2. Quatre types de préparation de terrain après coupe (mise en andains, herse forestière, broyeur forestier et herbicide) ont été mis en place et suivis, en 2013, d'une plantation d'épinette blanche de fortes dimensions. Des suivis dendrométriques des arbres plantés ainsi que des relevés de végétation seront réalisés après une, deux et cinq saisons de croissance. Pour atteindre notre 3e objectif, nous utiliserons des outils de télédétection combinés à des inventaires terrain qui serviront aussi à identifier les facteurs biotiques et abiotiques qui déterminent la présence de cette plante. Ce programme de recherche permettra de détecter plus rapidement et efficacement la présence de ces envahisseurs et d'élaborer des stratégies pour limiter leur propagation.



## *Spatial data for modeling wood resource availability in the Northeastern United States*

Forests are an important part of the cultural and economic fabric of the Northern Forest region, but new demand within the renewable energy sector has raised concerns about the sustainability of the forest resource. Accurate estimates of available wood supply are a critical starting point for decision-making and evaluations of sustainability. However, previous wood supply modeling efforts have varied in terms of their scope, scale, and methodology, and project-specific analyses have been hampered by a lack of consistent datasets that quantify the accessibility of wood supply in terms of the environmental, legal, social, or logistical constraints to harvesting. We are filling this data gap by creating a centrally located series of spatial datasets that quantify the various factors that contribute to the possibility and probability of harvesting in a given area, such as distance from roads, stream buffers, parcelization and fragmentation, existing harvest demand, and areas reserved from harvest due to BMPs and protection status. Datasets are being generated in both spatial and tabular formats. In addition, comprehensive documentation and spatial analysis tools are in development that will allow the generated datasets to be updated easily in the future. The data will be made publically available online and are being integrated into an existing wood supply modeling tool, the Northern Forest Biomass Project Evaluator developed by the North East State Foresters Association. By quantifying common wood supply modeling parameters, these datasets will improve the accuracy of wood supply analysis in the region and increase the utility of the wood supply assessment tools that require these types of user inputs. Ultimately, these data will provide policy-makers, researchers, and the general public with the information they need to assess the realistic capacity of the forest resource and to make informed decisions regarding the sustainable use of our forests.





## *Dead wood influxes in preindustrial forests of Eastern Quebec, Canada*

Ecosystem-based management recommends maintaining an adequate amount of snags and coarse woody debris in managed forests. However, targets are difficult to establish because estimates of recruitment rate of dead wood in natural forests are lacking. The objective of this study is to estimate the annual rate of dead wood input per hectare in the preindustrial temperate forests of eastern Quebec, based on a detailed inventory of standing living trees made between 1928 and 1930, prior to extensive logging. Since these preindustrial forest landscapes were old-growth and exhibited relatively stable size-class frequency distributions (stem frequency decreasing monotonically with increasing DBH) the amount of dead wood produced by DBH class can be estimated by subtracting stems densities between consecutive DBH classes. Using an age-DBH relationship, it is then possible to estimate the dead wood influxes (number of dead stems produced by species by year by hectare by DBH class). We intend to consider four stand types and three elevation bands and order to test the hypothesis that dead wood influxes varied with species, elevation and forest types. In the watershed of the Rimouski River, softwood stands and balsam fir had the most important recruitment rate of dead wood. The results will lead to silvicultural guidelines to help managers set deadwood targets.

Co-auteurs / Co-authors:

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## *Le Guide sylvicole du Québec : une nouvelle façon d'aborder les forêts*

En avril 2013, l'entrée en vigueur du nouveau régime forestier a modifié la pratique de la sylviculture dans les forêts publiques québécoises en mettant l'accent davantage sur les résultats obtenus plutôt que sur les moyens utilisés pour les atteindre. Cette nouvelle approche de gestion par objectifs nécessite le développement d'outils pour faire face aux changements. Les guides sylvicoles sont des ouvrages de référence encadrant l'application d'une sylviculture complexifiée par de nouveaux défis, incluant l'aménagement forestier écosystémique. Ils comprennent les Guides des stations et le Guide sylvicole du Québec décliné en trois tomes : 1) Les fondements biologiques de la sylviculture; 2) Les concepts et l'application de la sylviculture et 3) Les scénarios sylvicoles.

Cette affiche porte principalement sur le contenu innovateur du deuxième tome du Guide sylvicole. Il s'agit des assises scientifiques actuelles de nos actions présentées dans un format didactique vulgarisé rédigé collectivement par les experts de chaque domaine. Il est divisé en deux parties : les concepts (7 chapitres) et les traitements sylvicoles (17 chapitres). Ces derniers expliquent les généralités, l'historique, les fondements sylvicoles, les bénéfices et les risques, les variantes, les facteurs qui conditionnent la réussite et les particularités par grand type de couvert de chaque traitement. En plus des traitements sylvicoles traditionnels, le Tome 2 inclut les traitements les plus récemment introduits au Québec, comme la coupe progressive irrégulière (CPI) et l'éclaircie jardinatoire (ÉJ).

Les connaissances et les outils regroupés dans le Guide sylvicole s'adressent aux ingénieurs forestiers et aux biologistes, mais également aux scientifiques, aux professeurs, aux étudiants, aux techniciens et à tous ceux qui s'intéressent de près à la mise en valeur du milieu forestier et qui désirent acquérir un savoir-faire dans le domaine de la sylviculture.

Co-auteurs / Co-authors:

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Éric Canapé, Conseil des Innus de Pessamit



## *Vision innue de l'aménagement écosystémique des forêts du Nitassinan de Pessamit*

L'aménagement écosystémique est au cœur de la nouvelle approche de gestion durable des forêts au Québec. Ainsi, le cadre de référence est associé à la forêt jugée naturelle, autrement dit à son état avant l'exploitation forestière industrielle. À ce jour, beaucoup d'efforts ont été mis pour caractériser le portrait et la dynamique naturelle de cette forêt sur le plan écologique. Mais qu'en est-il de la dimension humaine? Nous croyons que la perspective autochtone fait partie intégrante de la forêt et qu'il est primordial de l'intégrer au concept d'aménagement écosystémique. Située sur la Haute-Côte-Nord, la communauté innue de Pessamit est grandement attachée à son Nitassinan (territoire ancestral). Dans le cadre d'un projet de formation en foresterie en cours dans cette communauté innue, les acteurs clefs nouvellement formés ont manifesté l'intérêt de s'approprier et d'ajouter leur couleur à une définition de l'aménagement écosystémique des forêts du Nitassinan. Afin de parvenir à cet objectif, certains experts mentionnent l'importance de la création d'un langage commun. Privilégiant la recherche-action, le projet d'accompagnement de la communauté des Innus de Pessamit s'inscrit dans ce processus. Une réflexion est présentement en cours avec un groupe d'expert multidisciplinaire. Parallèlement, un processus de validation sera mis en place auprès des membres de la communauté actifs dans le secteur forestier. À l'aide du logiciel N'Vivo, nous ferons l'analyse de contenu des groupes de discussion. Ce cheminement vise à déterminer dans quelle mesure un arrimage entre la vision québécoise de l'aménagement écosystémique et la vision innue de Pessamit est possible sur le Nitassinan de la communauté. Un défi inter-culturel important qui s'inscrit dans un mouvement pancanadien de réconciliation entre la société dominante et les Premières Nations et où ces derniers seront amenés à prendre une place de plus en plus importante en foresterie.



***Validation inédite du modèle de paysage LANDIS-II dans l'objectif de tester l'interaction de l'aménagement écosystémique et les changements climatiques d'ici 2100.***

Les incertitudes dans le futur concernant l'évolution des paysages forestiers sont importantes, alors que l'on est à la recherche de stratégies d'aménagement durable des forêts comme par exemple l'aménagement écosystémique. La problématique de l'interaction entre les changements climatiques et l'aménagement écosystémique n'est que trop peu soulevée. Les outils de la modélisation qui simulent la dynamique de la succession forestière et les perturbations à l'échelle des paysages permettent d'appréhender le futur, mais seule la qualité des données disponibles et la mise en place de protocole de validation solide conduiront à préciser et réduire ces incertitudes. L'utilisation adéquate des modèles de paysages requiert donc une meilleure connaissance de leurs limites, en exigeant un travail de validation permettant de questionner si les prévisions des modèles sont réalistes. La comparaison entre les projections des modèles et les observations empiriques est souvent difficile, car ces dernières sont rarement aux mêmes échelles de temps et d'espace que les simulations. Cette étude propose un protocole inédit validant le modèle de paysage LANDIS-II basé sur un inventaire forestier datant de 1930. La modélisation de la dynamique de la biomasse débutant en 1930 sera projetée jusqu'en 2013. La biomasse prédite en 2013 sera comparée à celle observée aujourd'hui provenant d'un réinventaire des mêmes placettes de 1930. L'historique de perturbations naturelles et anthropiques a été documenté et sera imposé aux scénarios de modélisation. Une comparaison de la structure du paysage prédit et observé, ainsi qu'une analyse de sensibilité complètera la validation. Une fois le modèle LANDIS-II validé, il sera alors possible d'étudier jusqu'en 2100 l'interaction de l'aménagement forestier et des changements climatiques sur la composition du paysage forestier.

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**François Girard, Université de Montréal**

**Frank Grenond, Centre d'enseignement et de recherche en foresterie de Sainte-Foy inc**



## ***Modélisation des accidents de régénération après feu en forêt boréale continue***

En forêt boréale, le feu est le principal agent déterminant l'âge, la composition et la structure des paysages forestiers. Cependant, depuis plus de 50 ans, les coupes industrielles se sont ajoutées aux feux afin de former un nouveau régime de perturbation. Ce nouveau régime a entraîné une augmentation de la proportion des jeunes peuplements au sein du paysage de la forêt boréale. Le risque d'occurrences de feux dans de jeunes peuplements est donc plus grand que par le passé. De plus, la hausse prévue de la fréquence des feux est susceptible d'accentuer ce phénomène. Après feux, les jeunes peuplements qui n'ont pas encore atteint leur plein potentiel de régénération, s'ouvrent et forment alors des landes rendant impossible la récolte de manière rentable. Dans un contexte d'aménagement écosystémique, le maintien de la productivité des forêts et la conservation de sa capacité de résilience sont des enjeux importants qui ont des conséquences déterminantes sur les approvisionnements en matière ligneuse. L'objectif principal de cette étude vise à développer un modèle prédictif et spatialement explicite de la régénération de l'épinette noire à partir des principaux facteurs limitant son établissement à la suite d'un feu. La sévérité du feu, l'historique des perturbations, la présence d'éricacées et les conditions de site sont parmi les principales variables explicatives retenues. Ce modèle permettra une surveillance de la forêt boréale en utilisant les données de la télédétection et des inventaires forestiers du ministère des Forêt, de la Faune et des Parcs. Il favorisera une détection plus rapide et plus efficace des secteurs où des accidents de régénération sont survenus. Le modèle sera développé dans la région administrative du Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean et viendra appuyer la planification des travaux de remise en production.

**PONTIUS, Jennifer**

University of Vermont

Affiche / Poster

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

17:10- 18:00

Co-auteur / Co-author:

Richard Hallett, USDA Forest Service



## *Summarizing multiple variables for comprehensive assessment of forest characteristics*

Researchers and land managers routinely collect a variety of data at the tree, plot, stand and landscape levels. While describing and assessing any one variable is typical, there is often a need for a more integrated assessment of forest condition. We describe a data compilation and summary method that is adaptable across the nature, units and scale of variables collected. This approach relies on: 1) inclusion of multiple measurements designed to capture the full range of conditions expected, 2) normalization of each measurement to a relative scale, and 3) combining normalized measurements into one summary rating. We demonstrate the utility and flexibility of this approach in the context of tree level decline assessments and watershed level water quality risk assessments. This comprehensive approach allows researchers and forest managers to track subtle changes in conditions over shorter periods of time, an imperative advancement for applications such as the detection and monitoring of invasive pests or impacts of management activities. While the case studies presented here are based on specific tree species and stress agents, this approach is scalable and broadly applicable to other objectives, making it a valuable approach for forest monitoring, management and assessment.

# THÉBERGE, Delphine

Consultante

Affiche / Poster

Vendredi 17 octobre 2014 / Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

17:10- 18:00

Co-auteur / Co-author:

Martin Hébert, Université Laval



## *L'aménagement écosystémique et la participation du public*

Selon le gouvernement du Québec, l'aménagement écosystémique doit répondre à des besoins socio-économiques dans le respect des valeurs sociales liées aux milieux forestiers. De plus, l'aménagement intégré des ressources prévoit la participation du public. Quels sont les défis de cette participation? Comment en faire un succès?

Pour répondre à ces questions, l'affiche proposée ici se basera sur les résultats d'un rapport de recherche présentant une revue de la littérature sur les dimensions sociales de l'aménagement écosystémique, que plusieurs experts québécois de l'aménagement écosystémique ont été appelés à commenter. Ces experts ont ensuite été invités à participer à un atelier de discussion sur la question. Le rapport combine une analyse qualitative de cette rencontre, ainsi que la revue de littérature. L'affiche se basera aussi sur un mémoire de maîtrise en anthropologie où des entrevues semi-dirigées ont été menées avec plusieurs participants au Projet pilote d'aménagement écosystémique de la Réserve faunique des Laurentides. L'analyse de ces données qualitatives s'est faite de manière itérative, c'est-à-dire par des allers-retours entre les données, l'analyse et la rédaction.

Plus précisément, il sera d'abord question de multiples façons de penser le territoire forestier. Par exemple, pour différents acteurs, la forêt peut être un lieu de connaissance scientifique, un lieu de ressourcement, un joyau de la chasse, un lieu que les Premières Nations doivent se réapproprier... Ces diverses façons de penser le territoire ont une influence sur la manière de participer des gens. Dans un deuxième temps, nous aborderons certains défis liés à la participation du public, tels que la communication de différents types de savoirs ou les ressources (temps, argent, expertises) disponibles afin d'être apte à participer de manière adéquate. Enfin, nous présenterons une proposition d'un cadre d'évaluation de la participation, ayant comme base l'équité dans la prise en compte des divers rapports à la forêt et l'efficacité du processus lui-même.



## *Tree renewal in grouped tree retention: Evaluating seed dispersal and seedling establishment in the northern temperate forests of Quebec*

Grouped tree retention is currently a part of ecosystem based forest management in Quebec public forests. Patches of remnant trees are expected to improve structural and biological diversity in managed forests. The extent to which patches of remnant forests preserve components of natural forests and promote recovery in neighbouring harvested areas has not yet been tested. The aim of this study is to assess whether patches of trees contribute to tree regeneration on the forest floor. We studied seed dispersal and seedling regeneration of tree species on three sites with grouped tree retention in the Bas-Saint-Laurent, Quebec, from 2011 to 2013. Each study site consisted of four 400m<sup>2</sup> patches of remnant forests separated by 60 m. A total of 180 seed traps were placed in the patches and on the logged area between the patches to measure seed dispersal. A total of 576 quadrats were used to determine the abundance of seedlings established after harvest. Substrate availability was quantified and will be compared with the substrate on which each individual seedling was established. Considering the large amount of zero counts for seedlings, regression methods within a framework of generalized linear model (Poisson, Hurdle Analyses or Zero-Inflated models) will be used to determine whether substrate influences seedling establishment. Preliminary results indicate a decrease in seed dispersal as distance from the source of production increases. We expect further analysis to reveal 1) the success of tree regeneration to be different for each tree species and; 2) the spatial distribution of seedlings to be influenced by the spatial distribution of forest floor substrates. This study aims to provide details concerning tree regeneration in grouped tree retention in forests of eastern Quebec and is meant as a decision aid in the future planning of ecosystem based forest management.



# Sortie terrain Field trip

## Quoi apporter

*Les températures normales de saison sont autour de 2,3°C à 9,0°C, aussi l'activité aura lieu en cas de pluie. Vous devez donc prévoir:*

- *Vêtements chauds*
- *Tuque*
- *Gants/Mitaines*
- *Chaussures / bottes de marche*
- *Imperméable ou Coupe-vent*

*Une boîte à lunch vous sera fournie*

## What to bring

*Seasonal temperatures normally vary from 2,3°C to 9,0°C ( 36°F to 42°F), as the field trip will still take place in case of rain, you may bring:*

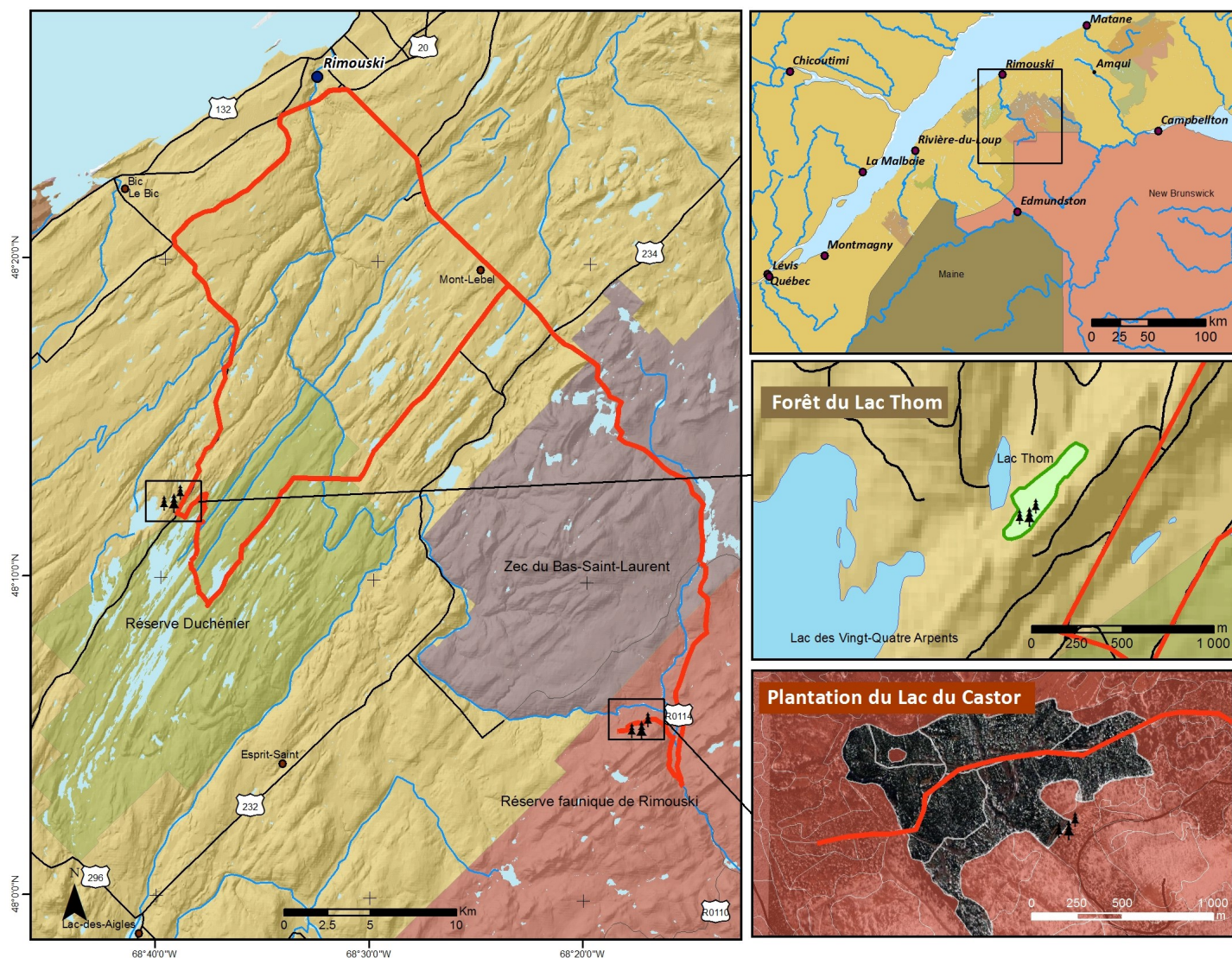
- *Warm clothes*
- *Winter hat*
- *Gloves*
- *Hicking shoes / boots*
- *Rain / wind jacket*

*A lunch box will be provided*

**Départ de l'UQAR à 10 h 00**  
**Departure from UQAR at 10:00 am**



# Sortie terrain Field trip



10:00 -  
11:45

Départ de Rimouski vers le Lac du Castor  
Departure from Rimouski to Lac du Castor

11:45 -  
14:00

Visite des sites expérimentaux sur l'éclaircie commerciale  
Experimental sites visit on commercial thinning

14:10 -  
15:40

Départ du Lac du Castor vers le Lac Thom (groupe 1) ou Rimouski (groupe 2)  
Departure from Lac du Castor to Lac Thom (group 1) or Rimouski (group 2)

15:40 -  
16:50

Visite de la dernière forêt vierge du Bas-Saint-Laurent  
Visit of the only virgin forest of the Bas-Saint-Laurent region

15:50 -  
17:50

Retour à Rimouski (groupe 1) / Return to Rimouski (group 1)