

Local and global insight into the future of northern forest ecosystems in uncertain times

Climate change is projected to impact forest ecosystems and the goods and services that they provide by directly influencing forest growth, regeneration and mortality, and indirectly through shifts in climate sensitive landscape disturbance, such as fire and insect outbreaks. In addition, concomitant economic and social changes are expected to influence both the demands we place on forests and how they are managed. Currently, one of the key challenges that we face is trying to understand how these multiple driving factors will combine to influence future forest development. Using local and global examples, I will overview work that I have done on how interactions between some of these factors are projected to influence the future ecological and economic resilience of various forest systems. I will finish by highlighting what I see as some of the main challenges that we face with regard to northern mixed species forest management, particularly in the context of future climate and economic uncertainty.

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