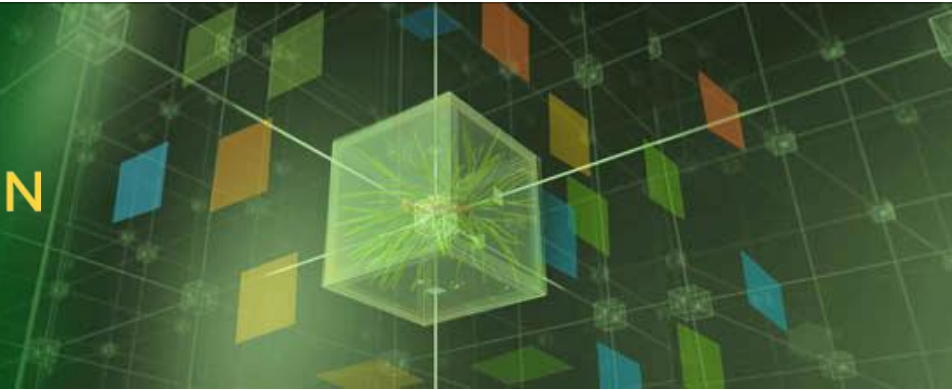




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Underburning

Case Studies NWT

Greg Baxter Nov 2017



Underburning

Background

- Underburning is promoted as a FireSmart tool to reduce fire intensity. What are the indices that achieve the best results given a specific fuel type?

Objective

- To determine the range of indices give a specific fuel type when underburning achieves the desired results?

Underburning - Update

NWT 2017

- Took advantage of NWT CBCFS site to document underburning over a range of FWI conditions (guard burning).
- Conducted 4 underburns in a C-3 fuel type under different FWI conditions.

An underburn is defined as a fire that is constrained to surface fuel and therefore has a low to moderate fireline intensity (less than 300 kW/m). Underburns are commonly prescribed for dry forest types such as ponderosa pine or mixed conifer to reduce fuel but leave the overstory intact. Underburns are usually classified as low-severity fires

Underburning – Update

Case Studies

- Four burns: one ‘over-achieved’; 2 under-achieved; 1 approached the desired results.



Underburning

Next Steps

- Have completed 4 burns – are narrowing in on the conditions required for an underburn in a C-3 fuel type.
- Will continue burning guard and documenting FWI to determine the range where underburning achieves the desired results: *removes surface fuels and can be performed with little difficulty of control.*
- Worked this fall with AAF to find two more underburning plots at Horse Creek research site. These will be treated this winter and moisture conditions followed for possible burning next summer.



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Thank you

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