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The Use of Fire in Forest Ecosystem Restoration and Management

Guest Editors:

Dr. Roger Williams

School of Environment and Natural Resources, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210, USA

Dr. Charles Goebel

Department of Forest, Rangeland and Fire Sciences, University of Idaho, 875 Perimeter Drive, Moscow, ID 83844, USA

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Message from the Guest Editors

Some forest ecosystems over time have adapted to the occurrence of fire by developing mechanisms of protection to insure that the species regenerates following fire. Through this evolution of adaptation some forest ecosystems have become fire dependent, either requiring fire for regenerative purposes or for maintaining its presence on the landscape. However, fire has long been viewed as a destructive agent of forests, and many efforts have been made to protect forests from fire. This subsequent alteration or disruption of the natural fire regimes have disrupted the natural processes under which forests have developed. Forests that rely upon fire to regenerate or maintain its presence on the landscape have slowly diminished. Research is needed to better understand how fire can be reintroduced back into these ecosystems effectively and how fire can best be used in management to restore and maintain fire dependent ecosystems. Accordingly, the scope of this issue to present current research on the use of fire in restoration and management efforts, and the lessons learned from both successes and failures.



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