Forest fuels and fire behaviour - Professor Mike Wotton

Openings: PhD and MScF

Forest fire managers in Canada (and in numerous countries around the world) evaluate fire potential in their forest environment on a daily basis with outputs from the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System (CFFDRS). This system includes weather-based models of forest fuel moisture, along with models for fuel type explicit elements of fire behaviour such as a fire's spread rate and its intensity. Currently the Canadian Forest Service is developing a next generation of many of the models in this system.

Mike Wotton is seeking graduate students to be part of this major effort to develop a new generation of the CFFDRS for both field-based and modelling research projects. Ongoing research projects are related to forest fire behaviour and fire danger rating in general and include fuel moisture prediction, fire ignition and occurrence probability modelling, fuels characterization and rate prediction. Ideal students would have good quantitative skills (e.g., some ability with statistics, computer programming) and some experience working either in the wildfire management community or on field-based research projects.

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