

Join us for the Forest Resources Monthly Seminar

Our faculty and researchers will share their latest research, ideas for future research and collaboration with the audience. We will have one to two presentations per seminar date.

EAB and black ash wetlands: holistic assessment of ecosystem impacts and potential for mitigation

presented by

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Minnesota Forest Resources Council

and

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Monday, February 25, 2019

3:00-4:00 p.m.

203 Green Hall

St. Paul Campus

If you can't join us, watch remotely at: <http://z.umn.edu/FRsem>

Invasive species are increasingly a threat to the wholesale functioning of certain ecosystems. In Minnesota, black ash wetlands are one of these because of the invasive emerald ash borer (EAB), which can cause complete mortality of black ash in a short period following infestation. Black ash wetlands are extensive in the state, and are unique because stand composition is almost entirely composed of black ash with only a few co-occurring species present. Because of its dominance, black ash serves as a foundational tree species in these wetlands, and a cascade of impacts to ecosystem function are likely to occur following its loss. Starting in 2010, a large-scale experiment was established on the Chippewa National Forest to evaluate the effects of simulated EAB and alternative silvicultural strategies on ecosystem processes. We have also established a network of monitoring sites across northern Minnesota to quantify the range of conditions across a gradient of hydrogeomorphic conditions. In this seminar, we will discuss findings related to wetland hydrology, vegetation dynamics, nutrient cycling, and wildlife species. A key question is whether we can maintain these forested wetlands in a forested condition following EAB. Given this, we will discuss the findings in the context of mitigation, including the identification of suitable replacement species following ash loss and barriers to operational action.

Light refreshments will be available

Following seminars will be:

Monday, March 25 at 3:00: A panel discussion of historic and current perspectives on forestry

Monday, April 22 at 3:00: Forrest Fleischman: Do federal forest managers use the right science? How you can help us understand the largest dataset in the world on the use of science in policy.