

Secwepemc Landscape Burning Practices: Views from Practitioners

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Secwepemc ethnobotany research has confirmed the use of fire management in Secwepemc traditional territory. Since the large wildfires in the Interior of British Columbia in 2003, there has been a renewed interest in forest management practices that incorporate burning into contemporary management regimes. In this paper/poster, we will add to the indigenous knowledge base on Secwepemc (Interior Plateau) burning practices from practitioners' perspectives, focusing on methods of burning, knowledge of season and local moisture levels, local climate and wind patterns and plant growth at crucial times of the year. We will also examine the ways in which such knowledge is expressed in the Secwepemc language. Finally, we will explore why and how such very localized practices that are moreover driven by local and temporal climates and ecologies are not easily compatible with centrally managed forestry practices.