

Fire, historical change, and resilience management in Quaking Aspen

USU Forestry Extension's *Learn at Lunch* March webinar to learn about disturbance and resilience in western Quaking Aspen. This webcast is co-hosted by the Western Aspen Alliance. As always, one ISA CEU will be available. All Learn at Lunch webinars are recorded and archived at <http://forestry.usu.edu/htm/video/Webinars> within a week of the live presentation.

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. (MT)

Speaker(s): Douglas Shinneman, Research Fire Ecologist, U.S. Geological Survey; Dominik Kulakowski, Associate Professor of Geography and Biology, Clark University; and Paul Rogers, Director, Western Aspen Alliance

Website: <https://connect.usu.edu/r4462mvd8uj/>

* Detailed presentation descriptions on following page

Overview: *Quaking Aspen forests are among the West's most iconic landscapes. In this month's Learn at Lunch webinar, three aspen experts will address fire regimes, ecosystem disturbances, and managing for aspen resilience. Douglas Shinneman from the U.S. Geological Survey's Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center will describe a proposed classification framework for aspen fire regimes; Dominik Kulakowski from Clark University will explore possible consequences of altered disturbance regimes in western Quaking Aspen; and Paul Rogers from the Western Aspen Alliance will discuss short- and long-term management considerations for preserving aspen resilience.*

Participation Instructions:

Each webinar will have a unique website.

1. Plan to enter the webinar a few minutes early to enter CEU information and answer survey questions.
2. Click on the web link provided for the session (for March 18, <https://connect.usu.edu/r4462mvd8uj/>). "Chrome" web browser is not recommended.
3. Enter as a guest.
4. You should be taken to the presentation screen and have access to the audio. You are encouraged to participate and ask questions in the chat pod in the lower left corner.

Next Learn at Lunch:

Wed., April 30 – Fruit Tree Selection and Care, with Brent Black and Marion Murray, USU Extension (URL: <https://connect.usu.edu/r19q5v6t487>)

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March 18, 2014

A webinar co-hosted by the Western Aspen Alliance and USU Forestry Extension

Douglas Shinneman, Ph.D., Research Fire Ecologist
U.S. Geological Survey, Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center

Title: Fire regimes of quaking aspen in the Intermountain West

Research suggests that aspen woodlands range from being highly fire-dependent, seral communities to relatively stable, self-replacing, non-seral communities that do not require fire for persistence. Here, I suggest a classification framework for aspen fire regimes that includes the following types: 1) fire-independent, stable aspen; 2) fire-influenced, stable aspen; 3) fire-dependent, seral, conifer-aspen mix; 4) fire-dependent, seral, montane aspen-conifer; and 5) fire-dependent, seral, subalpine. This type of classification, coupled with site-appropriate disturbance ecology information, should aid efforts to manage and restore aspen communities, diagnose key factors contributing to changes in aspen, and project likely changes in future aspen-fire relationships.

Dominik Kulakowski, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Geography and Biology at Clark University

Title: The consequences of changing disturbance regimes for quaking aspen in the western U.S.

Aspen mortality and decline may be becoming more ubiquitous due to the direct effects of climate (e.g. drought). In contrast, the indirect effects of recent climate (e.g. forest fires, bark beetle outbreaks, and compounded disturbances) appear to favor aspen and may facilitate expansion of this forest type. Thus, future aspen trends are likely to depend on the net result of the direct and indirect effects of altered climate. This talk explores the possible consequences of changing disturbance regimes for quaking aspen in the western U.S.

Paul Rogers, Director
Western Aspen Alliance, Wildland Resources & Ecology Center, Utah State University

The discussion will explore short- and long-term management considerations for preserving aspen resilience under dynamic stewardship and climatic regimes. A central maxim of this presentation will be to "avoid one-size-fits all" prescriptions. We will learn from the first two presenters that aspen reacts to disturbance along multiple pathways. How might this realization affect more informed management and restoration approaches?