

**Canadian Forest Service . . .**

## **Software helps predict and map probability of fire**

By **REBECCA DIBBELT**

A new fire probability simulation model developed by the Canadian Forest Service represents true integration of fire and forest management, says project leader Marc Parisien.

The model, dubbed BURN-P3 (probability, prediction, planning), is a user-friendly Windows-based computer application that will prove a valuable tool for resource managers, said Parisien.

For the first time, landscape-level burn probability maps can be produced by the users to evaluate wildfire susceptibility or burn probability for fire-prone landscapes. The model combines deterministic fire growth based on the Canadian Fire Behavior Prediction System and spatial data of forest fuels and topography.

“For all the talk of risk and vulnerability, there still wasn’t a reliable way to predict the likelihood that a certain point would burn, and that was the impetus for this initiative,” said Parisien. “We’re confident the technology will be as well-received across the forest sector as it has been by fire management agencies.”

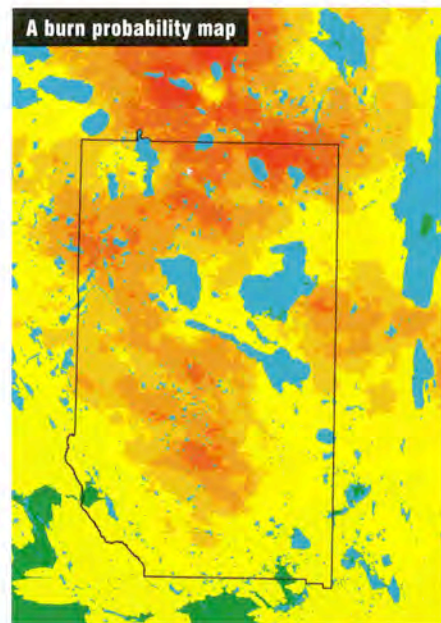
It will be invaluable in flagging high-risk areas for monitoring and could prompt a company to alter plans for cutblock design or to make changes to its harvest schedule, he said.

“We’re very excited about using BURN-P3 in forest management to examine or evaluate how the changes on the landscape are going to affect wildfire susceptibility,” Parisien said. “Every year companies modify the landscape; now, they will be able to test the effects different cutblock designs will have on wildfire susceptibility before they act.”

In addition, BURN-P3 may be incorporated into timber supply modeling and analysis to come up with reserve factors that vary throughout the landscape.

Parisien points out that millions are spent firesmaring communities and employing fuel modification treatments. “This tool affords us the opportunity to evaluate how those exercises will affect susceptibility to wildfire,” he said.

Project partners include the Canadian Forest Service, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Parks Canada and



Saskatchewan Environment. The software is available at no charge.

Marc Parisien can be reached at (780) 435-7347; mparisie@nrca.gc.ca.

Published by  
MediaMatch West  
Communications Inc.

Publisher & Editor: David Holehouse  
Phone: (780) 432-0112  
Fax: (780) 432-0884  
E-mail: [dholehouse@mediamatchwest.com](mailto:dholehouse@mediamatchwest.com)

The Edge forest industry magazine is mailed to Western Canada's industry, suppliers and government contacts nine times a year. It profiles the forest industry and related sectors, and provides information on science and innovation, markets, and investment opportunities.

ISSN: 1205-4674

Editorial material in this magazine may not be reproduced or used in any form without the written consent of the publisher.

#### Editorial Advisors

Craig Quintilio  
*AB Public Lands and Forests Division*

Howard Gray  
*AB Strategic Forestry Initiatives*

Cliff Henderson  
*Alberta Forest Protection*

Neil Shelly  
*Alberta Forest Products Association*

Doug Krystofiak  
*College of Alberta Professional Foresters*

Wayne Williams  
*College of Alberta Professional Forest Technologists*

Gordon Miller  
*Canadian Forest Service*

Alex Sinclair  
*FERIC*

Jim Dangerfield  
*Forintek Canada Corp.*

Paul Watson  
*Paprican*

Subscriptions: \$55 per year  
Canada Post Corporation  
Agreement # 40009376  
Customer #01056026

Return undeliverable copies to MediaMatch West  
#4, 10028-29A Ave., Edmonton, AB T6N 1A8



#### DOING BUSINESS

- 4 Howard Gray embarks on retirement
- 5 Trucker shortage worries logyard managers
- 6 Aspen wins converts at Tokyo exposition
- 8 FERIC map system helps harvest operators
- 9 Ceramic-tipped sawblades show promise
- 12 Foresters form history association
- 13 Market prices and trends
- 15 Forestry schools see turn-around



#### TECHNICAL INNOVATION

- 6 Nanomaterials in pulp & paper
- 7 Software cuts energy in veneer mills
- 7 Forests and future biorefineries
- 8 Forintek e-course offered by internet & CD
- 11 Data old and new fuel CFS projects

#### SUSTAINABLE FORESTS & LANDSCAPES

- 10 Weyerhaeuser work benefits smaller watersheds
- 12 Governments & industry tackle pine beetle
- 13 Canfor co-gen plant off to a good start
- 14 Forest Protection story



#### 16 GLEANINGS

Industry tidbits  
Supplier news  
Faces in the news  
Used equipment  
Coming events

Joerg Goetsch, page 17

Credits - Scenes from the 2003 Northern Alberta Forest Show will be replayed next month at the 2005 edition of the event, destined to be "the best ever." Story page 4.

## Do you have a story idea?

The Edge forest business magazine is always on the lookout for news. Let us know if you have an item you'd like to see covered. It could be something we use as a small news brief, or a full corporate profile with photographs. We'd like to hear about:

- Innovative moves within industry
- Personnel news
- Personalities worthy of a feature
- Interesting research projects
- Challenges and solutions
- New products and markets
- Investment opportunities
- Coming events

And of course, your letters are always welcome!  
Contact the publisher: [dholehouse@mediamatchwest.com](mailto:dholehouse@mediamatchwest.com)

And check out our website!

[www.mediatchwest.com](http://www.mediatchwest.com)

Get every issue of The Edge forest business magazine delivered to your office! Subscribers receive nine issues a year, packed with the latest technical, innovation, markets and regulatory news. Non-subscribers will continue to receive The Edge on an intermittent basis, as part of our ongoing commitment to ensure the magazine reaches those readers across Canada who find it most useful in their business.



# forest

# BUSINESS

'05 APR 14 AM 12:24

MAGAZINE

Business and Research News for Western Canada's Forest Products Industry

APRIL 2005

## NORTHERN ALBERTA FORESTRY SHOW

## TRUCKER SHORTAGE HITS INDUSTRY HARD

## FOREST FEEDSTOCKS FOR THE BIOREFINERY

## ENERGY SAVINGS IN VENEER MILLS

## NEW SYSTEM PUTS LOGGERS ON THE MAP

## FORESTRY SCHOOLS SEE TURN-AROUND

H2200B



1673 10/5  
CANADIAN FOREST SERVICE  
GORDON MILLER  
5320 122 ST NW  
EDMONTON AB T6H 3S5

PM 40009376