

FIRE IN THE BOREAL FOREST

A. The world's boreal forests have been less disturbed than other forest types because of

- long winters
- poor soils
- small and slow growing trees which loggers will not cut

B. Forest fires play an important role in Saskatchewan's ecosystems. Fire is a "natural disturbance" so that replanting trees is not usually required on burned areas.



C. *Putting out fires* can cause problems to ecosystems as wild fire personnel work to put out fires that threaten by:

- creating fireguards or creating a path for the fire to follow where the least amount of damage will be done
- crossing bodies of water like rivers, streams, bogs
- getting to trails and roads
- making camps for the firefighters

These "man-made disturbances"

- allow people to go where most aren't usually allowed to enter
- changes or damages fish and wildlife habitat
- removes topsoil, plants, shrubs and stands of trees

Reclamation or how to bring the forest back to the way it was before a fire

- is an important part of how to fight forest fires and how to lessen disturbances or damage to the forest caused by fighting the wildfire
- all trees are able to cope with occasional fires and are able to help the forest to begin growing and living quickly after a fire