

# 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 are not attractive to commercial loggers
- B. Forest fires are an important function of Saskatchewan's ecosystems. Fire is a "natural disturbance" so that "reclamation" is not usually required on burned areas.



- C. *Wildfire suppression efforts* can cause negative disturbances to ecosystems as wildlife personnel work to extinguish fires that threaten by:
- creating fireguards
  - crossing streams
  - accessing trails
  - making camps for the firefighters

These "man-made disturbances"

- allow access to areas people aren't usually allowed to enter
- alters or damages fish and wildlife habitat
- removes and windrows valuable topsoil, vegetation and stands of tree species

## *Reclamation*

- should be seen as an important part of forest fire operations, a major factor in determining how to fight fires and other ways to lessen disturbances caused by fighting the wildfire
- all species of trees are capable of coping with occasional fires and regenerating the forest quickly after a fire