Center for Environmental Research, Education and Outreach

Seminar Series
Fall 2020

The importance of fire refugia in the northwestern US

Dr. Arjan Meddens, School of the Environment, WSU

Wed., Oct 14, 2020 | 3:10 pm | Register for connection info at:
https://wsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcqd-mgqz4rGdZh1MKW30M3paCQuV_YMII2

Wildfires are common across the Pacific Northwest; however climate change is projected to cause increases in wildfire activity and severity. Wildfires create a heterogeneous pattern across the landscape from severely burned areas to unburned patches.

Unburned areas that are associated with critical habitat where biota can persist (e.g., old growth forest) and/or can recolonize neighboring burned areas are defined as fire refugia. They provide shelter for a range of fauna post-fire and can reduce detrimental impacts on hydrology and erosion. Therefore, management actions focused on maintaining or promoting these ecologically important areas on the landscape will be critical in the future, particularly under rapid climate change. During this seminar, I will discuss ongoing research at WSU on fire refugia.

Dr. Meddens is an assistant professor at the School of the Environment at Washington State University. Originally from The Netherlands, his research focuses on forest and rangeland ecology, remote sensing, carbon cycling, and forest disturbances. I use satellite and other geospatial data for assessing forest dynamics and aim to both provide tools for professionals to improve management of our natural resources as well as to advance scientific knowledge about fundamental ecological processes.