

Call for Special Session Proposals

11th North American Forest Ecology Workshop (NAFEW)

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

June 19 – 22, 2017

Proposal Deadline: Thursday, September 30, 2016 5:00 PM MDT

Proposals that are incomplete or received after the deadline will not be considered.

About Special Sessions

We invite proposals for Special Sessions for the 11th NAFEW in 2017. These sessions are distinguished from other organized sessions in that they are more explicitly integrated, provide an overall synthesis on a specific topic, and have broad enough appeal to generate large audiences at the meeting.

Proposals are encouraged to address the meeting theme, “Sustaining Forests: From Restoration to Conservation”. Any timely and coherent subject of broad interest to forest ecology will be considered. We also welcome proposals that explore interdisciplinary connections of forest sustainability in a social or economic context.

At the conference we have space for approximately 6 Special Sessions, each running for 2 hours. The organization of the special session should include from 3-6 talks, each talk should be in increments of 15 minutes (e.g., 3 talks each 30 minutes in length, or 6 talks each 15 minutes in length). All special sessions must include a 30 minute general discussion period to end the special session.

All proposals must include:

- Title of Special Session
- Principal organizer (Name, institution, email) - this person is the point of contact for the session and responsible for communicating with speakers and ensuring that individual abstracts are being submitted by the deadline
- Co-organizers (Names, institutions, emails)
- Moderator (Name, institution, email)
- Speakers (Names, affiliations, emails, and tentative talk titles) - only speakers who have been contacted and have committed to the session should be listed
- Special session description (< 500 words):
- It should focus on the theme of the special session and include a session justification. It may include background information, goals, objectives, importance, and potential interest to the main theme of NAFEW 2017.
- One sentence session summary (<50 words): This is a very short version of the session description that will appear in the print program.

Review Criteria

All proposals will be reviewed by the NAFEW 2017 scientific committee. The committee may accept, decline, or offer an opportunity to present the proposed work in a different format particularly if there are few speakers. Special session organizers will be notified of decision by December 1, 2016.

Symposium proposals will be assessed using the following criteria:

- Offer a diverse mix of speakers, each of whom brings new contributions to the special session topic
- Offer significant contributions to understanding of specific issues in forest ecology
- Present innovative or interdisciplinary approaches, including novel collaborations or syntheses across subdisciplines
- Have broad enough appeal to generate large audiences at the meeting
- Build a well-integrated whole session, more cohesive than other concurrent sessions (each talk should have clear relevance to an overall synthesis discussion provided at the end of the special session)
- Provide strong overall synthesis or overview; they should not be simply a set of related case studies and avoid the appearance of biases by taking a narrow perspective on the special session topic

Please note, once a special session has been accepted, cancellation imposes a serious burden to the workshop and deprives others from being able to present their work. Do not submit a proposal if you are uncertain that you will be able to fulfill your obligation to organize and conduct the special session. In addition, the meeting registration is not waived or reduced for anyone participating in any capacity in a special session. This includes the session organizer(s), moderator, and speakers. All meeting attendees must register at the appropriate rate. Organizers are responsible for making this clear to everyone they recruit to help with the session. No funds are available for honoraria or to support participant travel.

Important Dates

September 30, 2016	Deadline for submitting a special session proposal
December 1, 2016	Notification of acceptance sent to organizer.
January 31, 2017	Deadline to submit session revisions and confirmed speaker lists along with list of abstracts for all speakers.

To Submit

You must submit your proposal to NAFEW at: nafew17@ualberta.ca

Be sure to include “**Special Session Proposal**” as your subject heading.