Ecological research to empower forest management spruce budworm, carbon modeling, and conservation value of plantations

### David MacLean University of New Brunswick









# Outline

- 1. My background & training...
- 2. New Brunswick forests & forestry
- 3. Three research topics/projects:
  - Spruce budworm & early intervention project
  - Carbon in forests and forest products
  - Manipulating intensively managed spruce plantations to increase conservation value
- 4. Effective university/industry collaboration













Summit Depot Research Station - Laboratories, offices, and living quarters for the Green River Project

### Summer student – 1971-72 Acadia Forest Experiment Station









# Graduate student – PhD UNB 1973-78





#### Nutrient accumulation for postfire jack pine and hardwood succession patterns in New Brunswick

DAVID A. MACLEAN AND ROSS W. WEIN Department of Biology, University of New Brunswick, P.O. Box 4400, Fredericton, N.B., Canada E3B 5A3





#### SIMULATION OF WILDFIRE EFFECTS ON THE NITROGEN CYCLE OF A PINUS BANKSIANA ECOSYSTEM IN NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

DAVID A. MACLEAN \* and ROSS W. WEIN

Department of Biology, University of New Brunswick, P.O. Box 4400, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5A3 (Canada)

Ecological Modelling 10: 167-192. (1980)

# **Ecological modeling**

- Institute of Resource Ecology, UBC -- 1976-77
- Baskerville-Holling spruce budworm modeling
- Resilience, ecological economics, adaptive management...
- Post-doc UBC with Dr. J.P. Kimmins, FORCYTE model beginning



A dynamic model of growth in defoliated fir stands

G. BASKERVILLE<sup>1</sup> AND S. KLEINSCHMIDT<sup>2</sup> Faculty of Forestry, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, N.B., Canada E3B 5A3

## Research Scientist – CFS AFC 1978-99







# Dean of Forestry, UNB 1999-2009





UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK



Doug Embree, CFS retired

2008

Gordon Baskerville, CFS & UNB retired, Honorary Doctorate

The Presidents Cartun

# Graduate students mentoring



- Advice?
  - Be passionate about your project
  - Become the expert
  - Emulate good practices
  - Learn to be efficient
  - Present, publish
- Thesis/manuscripts
  - Objectives, questions
  - Write early; it's where things really come together
  - Focus on the 'keeper'
     Figs. & Tables
  - Point-form results

### A snapshot of forests in NB



Forest ownership in New Brunswick

Species composition (% volume) of Crown forest



#### 85% forested

- 50% Crown
- 30% private woodlots
- 20% industrial freehold

 68% softwood (evergreen) 32% hardwood (deciduous)

#### Diverse tree species

- 36% spruce (white, red, black), 19%
   balsam fir (55% vs 54% 1938, 61% 1958)
- ~5% each cedar, jack pine, white pine
- 8% red maple, 7% sugar maple, ~5%
  ea white birch, poplar, 4% yellow birch
   ~ 4% total: hemlock, red pine, beech, larch, oak, butternut, ash, elm

Erdle et al. 2008 NB Task Force on Forest Diversity & Wood Supply

### New Brunswick forests

#### Age-class distribution (% area)



#### **Age-class distribution**

- Most Crown forest 0-20 or 61-80 yrs old

- ~40% < 40 yrs; >1/2 planted or spaced

General occurrence of natural disturbance types in NB

#### Natural disturbances

- Stand replacing: spruce budworm & fire
- Gap-replacing: old age, disease, windthrow
- Gap-stand & stand-gap mixes

(gap - gap distutances dominals; and - stand distutances dominals; gap eland - bah occur with gap distutance morepression; stand gap - bah occur with stand distutance morepression; Gap Replacing Gap-Stand Stand-Gap Stand Replacing

# Forestry in NB

The most forestry-dependent province
 Largest economic sector in NB at 3.5% of GDP
 Highest per capita forest products exports



#### Forest Projection - 50 Years



### Understanding stand dynamics underpins effective SFM

- Stand dynamics with & without natural disturbances
- Sustainable Forest Mgmt (SFM) balance should include:
  - maintenance of natural processes, habitats & populations
  - conservation and protected natural areas
  - consideration of climate change
  - ecosystem goods and services as well as timber, recreation & habitat values
- Is there room for intensive forest mgmt.?
  - forest zoning approaches to increase the flow of certain values from certain areas
- Learning: research, questions, experiments, monitoring

### Spruce budworm

### Quebec 2011

### New Brunswick – 1956











**SBW** defoliation in Quebec 2013





#### Moderate defoliation only 25km from NB border

© 2013 Google Cata SIC, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO Image Jandaat Shaddawita

Google earth

Imagery Date: 4/9/2013 | at 48.188023° | In -66.095238° elev 336 m | eye at 324.62 km 🔘



#### 2013 Aerial Survey

50 survey hours

June 25- July 7th

# No SBW defoliation observed









#### Jeremy Gullison, NBDNR





2013 L2 Survey (Overwintering Larvae)

Collaboration between DNR, FPL & Crown Licensees

1,136 locations

17% of plots positive for SBW





### **Serious Damage to Forest Inventory**



### Growth loss during a budworm outbreak



### **Potential of NB SBW Outbreak?**



2126

#### Unprotected Cape Breton plot in a mature fir stand



### Spruce Budworm DSS



Implemented for all forest in NB, used in SK, tested in AB, ON, QC, ME; ongoing projects in MB, NS, NL 26

#### Forecasting stand impact for each defoliation & mgmt. scenario



#### Forecasting forest impact for each defoliation & mgmt scenario



# Sensitivity of AAC in NB to SBW, salvage, & protection?





Hennigar et al. 2013 For. Chron.

### Protecting our Forests From the Next Spruce Budworm Infestation







IRVING



#### Follow-up from a November 7, 2013 Presentation to the Atlantic Conservative Caucus



#### November 21, 2013









#### **Economic Impact of the Last Outbreak**

- During the peak of the last outbreak (1977-1981), SBW defoliation caused an estimated timber volume loss of <u>44</u> <u>million m<sup>3</sup> per year</u> in Canada or <u>30%</u> of the total Canadian harvest in 2012.
- Without spraying on the Cape Breton Highlands, mortality in spruce-fir forests was <u>over 85%.</u>
- To prevent extensive tree mortality in NB an average of <u>2.0 million hectares per year</u> were sprayed between 1970-1983 with an average cost of <u>\$7.7 million per year</u>.

### **Economic Impact of the Next Outbreak**

- A reactive protection strategy on 2 million hectares today would cost between <u>\$90 and \$160 million</u> per year.
- An estimated <u>harvest reduction of 18% 25%</u> is expected without mitigation.
- Potential SBW outbreak scenarios indicate the timber supply reduced by <u>2.4 – 3.3 million cubic meters per year</u> in the Atlantic Region.
- <u>Atlantic Regional direct and indirect economic losses</u> from a reduction in timber supply could total:
  - <u>\$10.8 Billion</u> resulting from a <u>moderate</u> outbreak
  - <u>\$15.3 Billion</u> resulting from a <u>severe</u> outbreak.

### **Social Impact of the Next Outbreak**

- Jobs will be <u>negatively impacted</u> over a period of <u>30 years.</u>
- Potential SBW outbreak scenarios indicate the <u>Atlantic regional</u> <u>direct and indirect job losses</u> over 30 years in NB, NS, PE and NF could total:
  - <u>1530 jobs per year on average for 30 years</u> resulting from a <u>moderate</u> outbreak
  - <u>1870 jobs per year on average for 30 years</u> resulting from a <u>severe</u> outbreak.
- <u>underestimates job losses</u> during periods of temporary mill closures or in communities where mills could permanently close due to lack of timber supply.

### **Social Impact of the Next Outbreak**

#### In a 2007 survey:

- <u>94%</u> of New Brunswick respondents <u>support funding research &</u> <u>development</u> on pest control.
- <u>82%</u> of New Brunswick respondents <u>support controlling future</u> <u>spruce budworm outbreaks</u>.



Public attitudes about forest pest outbreaks and control: Case studies in two Canadian provinces

Wei-Yew Chang, Van A. Lantz\*, David A. MacLean

Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management, University of New Brunswick, P.O. Box 4400, Fredericton, NB, Canada E3B 6C2

### **Our "ASK" from the Federal Government:**

- **1.** Supporting an Early Intervention Strategy should be a priority for Natural Resources Canada and CFS-Atlantic.
- Approval of our Early Intervention ACOA Proposal for funding support - \$18 million over 4 years (\$2 million from industry, \$4 million from Provincial Governments, \$12 million from Federal Government).

### **Strategic Options for SBW?**

### 1. Reactive:

- a) After immediate threat or presence of defoliation.
- b) Apply insecticide to target areas to reduce damage.

# 2. Crisis:

- a) When it becomes impossible to treat all areas
- b) Decision makers balance funds (Quebec)

## **3. Early Intervention Strategy:**

- a) Suppress the populations before they cause damage?
- b) Pesticide or Pheromone application to reduce SBW density
- c) Increase predator /parasite impact and/or decrease mating success
# Management strategies for coping with the next SBW outbreak



4-year Research program to test Early Intervention Strategy against SBW

Cost-shared by federal & provincial governments & industry

1. Intensive monitoring & study of SBW population responses



- Use *Bt*, Mimic, &/or pheromone to treat rising populations before defoliation in an attempt to prevent outbreaks
- 3. Test EIS with SBW DSS; economic analyses

Steering Committee FPL, Industry, CFS, NBDNR, UNB

Dave Davies, FPL Project Lead

**Communications Committee** 

Scientific Project Management Team Dr. David MacLean, UNB – Science Lead, DSS Dr. Jacques Régnière, CFS LFC – EIS strategy Dr. Rob Johns, CFS AFC – EIS trials Dr. Peter Silk, CFS AFC – Pheromones Mr. Greg Adams, JDI – Endophytes Mr. Peter Amirault, FPL – Aerial application Ms. Wendy Flowers, FPL – Project Admin.

#### Other Research Team Members

CFS AFC: Kathy Beaton, Eldon Eveleigh, D. Gray, G. Forbes, G. LeClair, P. Mayo CFS LFC: Drs. Louis De Grandpré, V. Martel, Deepa Pureswaran, Lucie Royer

Univs: Drs. Chris Hennigar, Van Lantz (UNB); Patrick James (Univ. Montréal); Dan Kneeshaw (UQAM); Alex Smith, Kevin McCann (Univ. of Guelph); J. David Miller (Carleton University)

FPL: Luke Amos-Binks, Drew Carleton , Gerry CormierNBDNR: Jeremy Gullison, Lester HartlingAV Nackawic, AV Cell: Kevin LarleeJ.D. Irving, Limited: Andrew WillettAcadian Timber Corp.: Kevin TopolniskiFornebu Lumber: Pierre LebelMFRL: Andrew McCartneyAgrifor Biotech.: Dr. Chris RileyFP Innovations: Dr. Udaya Vepakomma

A1: SBW Population dynamics during the rise of an outbreak (Régnière)

what SBW density to initiate an EIS?
what products may be most effective?

A2.1. Impacts of Early Intervention on SBW and associated natural enemies
(Johns, Martel, Eveleigh, McCann, Pureswaren)
✓ test efficacy and possible unintended impacts on very low density SBW and its parasitoid complex
✓ increasing size trials in 2014-2017

A2.2. Barcoding: Innovative DNA-based diagnostic for SBW & its natural enemies (Smith, Eveleigh, Johns, Martel, McCann)

- ✓ develop novel genomics tools to quantify and identify parasitism of SBW larvae and pupae
- Iess cost than insect rearing; ID parasitoids in larvae killed by pesticide treatments

A2.3. Aerial application of pesticides and pheromones (Amirault, Cormier, Amos-Binks)

EIS SBW trials in northern NB & Bt and pheromone control trials on low populations in QC A3.1. Epicenter formation & migratory behavior of adult SBW moths in eastern Canada
(Pureswaren, Johns, Gray, Royer, Kneeshaw, James,
De Grandpré)
✓ study migratory behavior from 'epicenters' (QC) & associated formation of epicenters (NB)
✓ methods to differentiate resident & migrant SBW moths, & contrib. of migrant moths to outbreaks

A4. SBW sex pheromone: effect of blend composition on mating (Silk, Eveleigh, & others)

 ✓ develop & register a more potent 4-component sex SBW pheromone blend for use in mating disruption
 ✓ do pheromones promote dispersal of female moths? B. Use of endophytic fungi to reduce SBW
impacts (Adams, Miller, Quiring, McCartney)
✓ inoculate spruce seedlings with insect toxinproducing endophytic fungi
✓ first application in forest trees

**C. Modeling and DSS/ economic analyses** (MacLean, Hennigar, Lantz, Gullison, Vepakomma)

 SBW population & defoliation scenarios for alternative EIS strategies; EIS monitoring tools
 effects of EIS on timber supply & economics

## **Conclusions – EIS against SBW?**

- ✓ research project; no guarantees
- ✓ focus is to protect our forests against SBW
- v potential to revolutionize how we protect forests
- ✓ time-limited opportunity to attempt it
- ✓ \$10-15 Billion SBW impacts over 30 yrs is at stake
- *EIS?* 1) intensive monitoring & early detection
  2) small area target-specific pesticide application
  3) tools/techniques to disrupt mating & migration







#### **#2** A Comprehensive Greenhouse Gas Balance for a Forest Company Operating in Northeast North America

Journal of Forestry (2013)

Ryan E. Cameron, Chris R. Hennigar, David A. MacLean, Greg W. Adams, and Thom A. Erdle



### **2. GHG emissions & carbon stocks for 100 yrs**

- 2.2M ha managed by J.D. Irving, Ltd. (1.0 M Crown, 1.2M freehold)
- Carbon & CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: forest, wood & paper products, operations emissions, sawmills, pulp mills, purchased electricity, all fuel, potential substitution benefits, alternative mgmt. strategies
- Forest estate model baseline planned harvest/silviculture



#### Forest & carbon modeling framework



#### GHG Emissions From Planned Forest Operations 2010-2015

— Alberta



#### Forest-level C storage change from 2010-2110 as a result of JDI's 100 year mgmt. strategy



#### Forest-level C storage change from 2010-2110 as a result of JDI's 100 year mgmt. strategy



#### Forest-level C storage change from 2010-2110 as a result of JDI's 100 year mgmt. strategy











## **2. GHG Study Conclusions**

- From 2010-2015 total emissions were:
  - 21% forest operations 4% sawmills 75% pulp/paper mills
- Forest & products net GHG (sequestration minus emissions):
  - sink of 30.7 t  $CO_2e$  ha<sup>-1</sup> in year 50
  - as harvest levels increased, emissions > sequestration by yr 85
  - GHG source of 6.4 t CO<sub>2</sub>e ha<sup>-1</sup> by year 100
- Includes SW harvest increases of 23% in 2045 & 50% in 2070
- Paper has high energy & emissions in manufacturing, short inuse life, & large emissions from landfills
- Consider disturbance risk, products & grid electricity emissions
- Intensive forest mgmt. may result in similar GHG mitigation potential as allowing forests to grow unmanaged, while providing forest products that produce societal benefits

# #3. Modifying intensive forest management for conservation?

- Alternative commercial thinnings of spruce plantations
- 5-year NSERC CRD funding
- Focusing on taxa with a clear connection to deadwood & thinning response
  - beetles, mosses, bird sp. dependent upon deadwood
  - vegetation sp. sensitive to disturbance
  - small mammals w/ low density in planted stands
- 6 plantations
  - age 26-32 yrs, >20 ha
  - 4 blocks, 120 plots



# Four treatments: A. Unthinned (control)

## B. Status quo commercial thinning (CT)









# C. Biomass removal CT (branches & tops)







# D. Enhanced structure

#### **1. Left unthinned clumps**

2. Girdled half the clump trees in 2011

### Six grad student projects at UNB & UdeM:

Effects on A) stand growth, light, photosynthesis B) small rodents



### Six grad student projects at UNB & UdeM

#### Effects on C) mosses & ground vegetation

D) birds





#### Allison MacKay, MSc UdeM









#### Sean Haughian, PhD UNBSJ



#### Six grad student projects at UNB & UdeM:



Paryse Nadeau, MSc UdeM

E) Saproxylic beetles response to CT & deadwood

F) Importance of:
i) quality of dead wood (age & type of wood)
ii) surrounding areas: type of forest mgmt. & vegetation

Franck Gandiaga PhD UdeM

UNIVERSITÉ DE MONCTON CAMPUS DE MONCTON





# A. Deadwood by treatment: Girdled trees added snags

Treatment	Downed o (m <sup>3</sup> New added	<b>deadwood</b> <sup>3</sup> /ha) Total	Snag (m²/h New added	<b>gs</b> a) Total	<b>Girdled</b> <b>tree snags</b> (m²/ha)
Unthinned	0.04	15.6	0.19	0.20	
Status quo CT	2.26	14.8	0.07	0.07	
<b>Biomass removal CT</b>	0.62	21.8	0.02	0.05	
Enhanced structure CT	1.88	19.5	0.07	0.09	0.20

# B. Experimental Design – Small Rodents

#### **Evan Dracup, UNB** (D. Keppie)



Treatment Type	Plants shelter food	Dead wood shelter	Fruit food
Control	Low	Low	Low
Biomass removal CT	High	Low	Medium
Status Quo CT	Medium	High	Medium
Added food CT Enhanced structure	Medium	High	Very high Added fruit
			ê e e e e

## B. Small Rodent Mark Recapture Trapping

Evan Dracup, UNB (D. Keppie)

- One trapping grid per treatment block
  - Square grids of 100 traps (10 X 10) with 10 m spacing
- Trap Spring & Summer 2011, 2012
  - 5 days/plantation
  - 24,978 trap nights
  - 368 rodents caught
- Upon capture animals:
  - Weighed, sexed, ear tagged

# **B. Southern Red-Backed Vole**



**Dead wood availability restricts vole populations** 

## **B. Woodland Jumping Mouse**



Commercial thinning negatively impacts jumping mice 70

# C. Ground vegetation & bryophyte response

#### Sean Haughian, PhD UNBSJ (Kate Frego)

- Epixylic bryophytes
  - Sensitive to disturbance, depend on CWD
- Understory vascular plants
  - Potential indicator species
- Veg-environment relationships (bryophytes)
  - Bryophyte growth experiments
  - Microclimate measurement, diversity modeling
- <u>Hypothesis</u>: Understory humidity is main control of epixylic bryophyte community











#### Sean Haughian, UNBSJ (Frego)

# C. Plants Results

#### Vascular plants

- yr 1 180 sp. yr 2 183 sp.
- Mostly graminoids & composites

#### Bryophytes

- Over 50 sp.
- Second survey summer 2013


### **D.** Birds

Allison Mackay, MSc UdeM (M-A. Villard)

Hypothesis: <u>Creating dead wood</u> through altered thinning treatments in spruce plantations will <u>increase bird</u> <u>species richness</u>

Prediction: Higher densities of dead wood dependent birds.

Birds ecologically dependent on: Woody debris Hermit Thrush White throated Sparrow **Uprooted trees** and large stumps Brown Creeper Well decayed Red-breasted snags Winter Wren Nuthatch **Boreal Chickadee** 

# E. Saprophylic beetles

#### Flight Intercept Traps set up in a line transect

- 6 spruce plantations
- 3 old-growth coniferous reserves
- 5 traps per line

   5, 15, 30, 60, 120m
   from the road
- Traps emptied biweekly June to August (2011-2013)
- 135 Traps in Black Brook District

Paryse Nadeau, MSc UdeM (G. Moreau)

### 48 families – 208 species – 60 350 individuals 2011-2012

Familias		Feeding guilds	#	#
Failines			spp	individuals
Staphylinidae	Eusphalerum fenyesi	Pollen Bolit Bolit/Mycot Mycot	1	37365
	Others	Pollen, Pred	32	<u>2508</u>
				(39873)
Elateridae		Mycet, Pred, Rhizo, Rhizo/Pred	20	3983
Curculionidae	Curculioninae	Phyto Philos Muset	3	115
	Others	Philo, Rhizo, Phyto	9	2403 <u>92</u>
				(2670)
Nitidulidae		Phyto, Sap	6	2466
Tenebrionidae		Bolit, Mycet, Sapro	5	2240
Mordellidae		Phyto	5	1948
Monotomidae		Pred	1	1435
Scirtidae		Sapro	4	941
Scraptiidae		Mycet	2	800
Histeridae		Pred, Sapro	2	573
Cerambycidae		Phloe, Xylo	21	509
Clambidae		Mycet	1	375
Other families (36)			86	2537
48			208	<u>60350</u>

 7 new spp in NB and 1 rare spp new for NB and for Atlantic Canada (Euaesthetus brevipennis Casey)



Effective University-Industry Collaboration J.D. Irving Ltd. Forest Research Advisory Committee

- Founded in 1998 as a product of FSC Certif. audits
- Experts in ecological fields, orig. led by G. Baskerville
- Profs. from UNB, UdeM, U. Maine; Manomet, NBDNR
- *"Empower the forest manager"* as decision maker
- Active partnership of researchers & forest managers
  - seek co-funding; 31 grad student projects at UNB & UdeM
  - bi-annual meetings, grad students present & get feedback
- Research quality peer reviewed publications
- Managers involved project selection/design/proposals

   actively monitor/evaluate research project progress

## JDI Forest Research Advisory Committee

- Two-way learning/ education
- Company capacity for uptake of results
- Investment of time as well as \$\$
- Current JDI FRAC questions:
  - 1. How do intensively managed stands contribute to habitat & biodiversity?
  - 2. What role do mixedwood stands play in terms of diversity & habitat?
  - 3. What do we know about stand dynamics under a natural disturbance regime?

Landscape

context?

4. What is the importance of context within which stands occur throughout the landscape?



- Remember the changing context for SFM, the 'urban scorekeeper'
  - credibility, communication, proof of performance
- Understand ecology of forest treatments & disturbance
  - can we use planning to reduce insect impacts?
  - natural disturbance-based silviculture, relation to habitat
  - how does intensive mgmt. affect sensitive taxa?
  - new values like carbon
- Forest zoning a possible approach
  - intensive, extensive, protected; specialized mgmt. in separate portions of forest
- Linking intensively managed & protected forest, toward meeting agreed-upon forest production & conservation goals, a viable way forward?

# Thanks to:

 31 Graduate students at UNB & UdeM in current & previous JDI FRAC projects: Anne-Sophie Bertrand, Luke Amos-Binks, Jean-François Carle, Wei-Yew Chang, Bruno Chicoine, Amanda Colford-Gilks, Adam Dick, Evan Dracup, Dave Etheridge, Janie Fauteux, Pascale Forget, Franck Gandiaga, Jean-Sébastien Guénette, Samuel Haché, Sean Haughian, Julie Henderson, Chris Hennigar, Jeff Higdon, Kerienne La France, Jérôme Lemaître, Allison Mackay, Mike Montigny, Paryse Nadeau, Eric Neilson, Kwadwo Omari, Aurore Perot, Jean-François Poulin, Greg Slaney, Matt Smith, Chris Ward, Amy Witkowski

Researchers, J.D. Irving staff, collaborators:

- Greg Adams, Gaetan Pelletier, John Gilbert, Pamela Hurley-Poitras
- Profs. Kate Frego, Dan Keppie, Gaetan Moreau, Marc-Andre Villard
- <u>MANY</u> student field assistants & Funders











