

FIRE IN ECOSYSTEMS: FRIEND OR FOE

MAY 9, 2020

COURSE LEVEL: II COURSE #: S3096
FEE: \$80 PER ADULT AGES 16 AND OLDER



INSTRUCTOR: DR. SCOTT FRANKLIN

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LOCATION: Rocky Mountain Conservancy - Field Institute & Conference Center
1895 Fall River Road, Estes Park, Colorado

TIME: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Managers and citizens are grappling with the complexity of how climate change may alter fire disturbance regimes. Is fire still a natural disturbance in these mountain forests? What relationship does fire have with other disturbances such as drought and bark beetle outbreaks? During this all-day class, we will explore the role of fire in mountain forest ecosystems, typical fire regimes, synergistic disturbances, and predicted changes with climate warming. We will also discuss the history of fire policy ranging from the *10-AM* policy to the *Let-Burn* policy, with the caveat of the wildland-urban interface.

COURSE LEVEL: II

The day will involve hiking several miles on mostly level terrain.

BRIEF INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY (additional information available at www.RMConservancy.org):

Dr. Franklin studies disturbance and vegetation dynamics, having received his Ph.D. degree in 1996 from Southern Illinois University. He has published more than 60 peer-reviewed manuscripts, several book chapters, and coauthored one book on forest dendrology. He serves as chair of ESA's Vegetation Classification Panel and as an associate editor of *Vegetation Ecology* for *The American Midland Naturalist* journal. His research currently examines long-term changes in Front Range forests, classification of the Pawnee National Grassland vegetation communities, response of aspen to disturbance, and plant competitive interactions.

EXPECTATIONS: Professional conduct will be expected from participants at all times. Individual ideas will be respected. Except during course breaks, cellular phones, pagers, and personal entertainment devices are strictly prohibited in the classroom and during field sessions.

CAR-POOLING: Rocky Mountain Conservancy - Field Institute courses utilize car-pooling to limit vehicles traveling into the park. Car-pooling makes it easier to keep the group together, reduces transit time, and allows courses greater access because fewer parking spaces are required at destinations. In addition, it provides an opportunity for participants to discuss course material in small groups during transit. Typically, a few participants from each course volunteer the use of their vehicles for car-pooling to course locations.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Introduction and indoor session
10:00 AM – Noon	In the field at one or more forest sites
Noon – 1:00 PM	Picnic lunch and discussion
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Continue at field site(s)
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Return to Field Institute for conclusion and evaluations

WHAT TO BRING:

- Sack lunch, snacks, energy bars, **WATER**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The day will involve hiking several miles on mostly level terrain. Be prepared for cold and rainy weather. Warm, layered clothing, hats, gloves/mittens, and hiking boots are highly recommended. Also bring snacks, a sack lunch, plenty of water, sunscreen, and sunglasses.

REMEMBER TO BRING THE 10 ESSENTIALS:

Rocky Mountain National Park recommends that hikers always carry the 10 essentials in their daypacks.

- Raingear
- Map and compass
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Sunglasses and sunscreen
- Candles
- Matches or other fire starter
- Pocketknife
- First-aid kit
- Extra layers of clothing
- Sack lunch, snacks, water

Note: Rocky Mountain Conservancy - Field Institute recommends that participants for all courses dress in layers and wear comfortable, sturdy hiking boots/shoes. Participants should be prepared for sudden changes in temperature and weather conditions.

REFUND POLICY:

Cancellations received at least 14 days prior to the start of a class will qualify for a refund minus a cancellation fee of \$25 per participant for a one-day class, \$50 for a multi-day class, \$5 per kid's class and \$15 per half-day class or bus tour seat. Registration money transferred to another class will be subject to a \$10 switch fee.

Cancellations received less than 14 days prior to the start of a class or bus tour will not generate a refund. If the Field Institute cancels a class, every effort will be made to place the participant in another class; otherwise, a full refund will be given.

TEACHER RECERTIFICATION CREDIT:

Most courses are eligible for teacher recertification credit through the Centennial Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES). The fee is \$25 per class (.5 unit) or \$25 per series of threaded classes (1.0 - 3.0 units). A list of threaded courses can be found online at www.rmconservancy.org. Participants must enroll in all courses of a threaded series in order to qualify for the \$25 multi-unit fee. Please be prepared to pay for this credit with a check, made payable to BOCES, on the first day of a class or on the final day of a threaded series of courses.