

Preface

The American Meteorological Society (AMS) symposia series on Fire and Forest Meteorology provides biennial forums for atmospheric and fire scientists to introduce and discuss the latest and most relevant research on weather, climate and fire. This special issue highlights significant work that was presented at the Sixth Symposium in Canmore, Canada during 25–27 October 2005. This is the third special issue in the *International Journal of Wildland Fire* (IJWF) from this symposia – the first appeared in Volume 11, Number 3 & 4, 2002 based on papers presented at the Fourth Symposium, and the second in Volume 14, Number 1, from the 2004 Fifth Symposium.

The Symposium was held jointly with the 19th Interior West Fire Council meeting. The Council is made up of fire managers and practitioners, while the AMS participants are primarily researchers performing fundamental and applied research. The joint meeting was by design in that we wanted to integrate researchers and practitioners to improve communication and cooperation between the two groups, and foster the exchange of ideas. Thus, the forum allowed for researchers to learn about fire management needs, and for fire managers to learn about cutting-edge fire research. Another unique aspect of this symposium was that two special sessions were organised focusing on core fire science. These papers emphasised topics aimed at improving the core physical science basis for fire management.

While all Symposium participants were encouraged to submit papers, this special issue offers ten papers selected from a number of submissions that emphasise an atmospheric role in a range of topics including fire spread, fuels, climate change, fire behaviour, smoke, fire weather and fire climate. For the first time in the IJWF journal volumes, an overview paper is included on a historical perspective of fire danger. Though many of the papers contain highly technical information, all have potential relevance for fire management. This issue extends fire and forest meteorology science and offers applied concepts for practitioners.

It should also be mentioned that several more papers from the Symposium will appear in following regular issues.

The Sixth Symposium program was developed by co-chairpersons Timothy J. Brown, Kerry Anderson, Sue A. Ferguson and Brian E. Potter. The program committee members included Randall Benson, Francis Fujioka, Scott Goodrick, Beth Hall, Colin Hardy, Narasimham Larkin, Richard Ochoa, Susan O'Neill and David Weise. Session topics included fire behaviour and fire spread, impacts of weather on wildfire, smoke management and air quality operational and near-operational fire weather forecasting techniques, impacts of climate and climate change on wildfire, fire–atmosphere interactions and coupled modelling, core fire science, fuels and fire, and utilisation of weather and climate information for wildfire decision making. There was also an opening plenary session on Canadian wildfire perspectives.

There were 202 Symposium participants, and 60 papers and 25 posters were presented. Many of these were submitted to the proceedings volume published in October 2005 by the American Meteorological Society, 45 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108-3693, USA.

This special issue is dedicated to the memory of Sue A. Ferguson, who was instrumental in organising recent Symposia on Fire and Forest Meteorology, and began the concept of IJWF special issues from these meetings.

We would like to express much gratitude to the authors, reviewers and editors involved in this special issue, and of course to the participants of the Symposium for presenting their ideas and research results that ultimately lead to another special issue.

The Seventh Symposium on Fire and Forest Meteorology will be held in Bar Harbor, Maine, USA, 23–25 October 2007.

Timothy J. Brown and Brian E. Potter
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