

Surface Fuel Load and Risk of Ignition in Urban Forests in northern Serbia

Vladimir Corbic from Mendel University in Brno (Czech Republic) was hosted by Sasa Orlovic of Institute for Lowland Forestry and Environment in Novi Sad (Serbia) during a STSM funded by the COST Action FP1204 with the aim to research the impact of the harvesting residue on the occurrence and spreading of the forest fires. The research was conducted in the National park Fruska Gora in the northern part of Serbia. Three big cities are in its vicinity, of whom one is the capital city Belgrade, which makes it very popular for the tourists. Three stands have been chosen for the research. In 2 a thinning was to take place and in one the final cut. In each of the stands, 5 sample plots were positioned. Each of the sample plots consisted of two different transects (T10 and T21) layed down in four dfferent directions and one circular area (radius 13m) for the inventory. The research included the collection of the following data: inventory data, number of dead wood per time lag class, litter presence and depth, grass presence and depth and shrub presence and depth. All of the data was collected before and after the harvest and the first results indicate significant increase in the quantity of surface fuel.