

# Climate Change Project & Partnership

In partnership with the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists (ASPB) and ESSA Technologies Ltd., the College is undertaking a climate change adaptation project with full financial support from Natural Resources Canada's Enhancing Competitiveness in a Changing Climate Program. The project's objective is to increase the use of adaptation knowledge by biology professionals in Western Canada so that they consider the effects of a changing climate in their professional practices and decisions. Since applied biology professionals work in a wide range of practice areas that have a significant impact on public resources, it is important that they practice due diligence with respect to their responsibilities and decisions, and that they are equipped with the most current methods and knowledge available.

Under the technical guidance of RPBio Marc Nelitz and his colleagues at ESSA Technologies Ltd., the College and the ASPB will develop an appropriate and intuitive classification scheme for existing climate change adaptation information to make it more accessible and suitable for use by biology professionals. To help biology professionals integrate climate change adaptation techniques into their practice, this adaptation information, as well as a guidance document and a webinar presentation, will be distributed to College members and posted on the College website.

This fall, both the College and the ASPB convened focus groups of their respective members to inform the project planning process and ensure the outcomes are relevant and useful for a broad spectrum of biology professionals. A survey of the memberships of both professional regulatory organizations has also been conducted to provide insight into the baseline levels of understanding of climate change adaptation, and to help identify relevant adaptation resources.

This project is the first significant climate change initiative undertaken by the College since it became a signatory on a joint statement that acknowledged the leadership role professionals and their regulatory organizations should play in climate change adaptation. We are grateful to Natural Resources Canada for providing support for this project. Further updates will be provided to College members as the project progresses. 



Photo by Bruce Blackwell, RPBio, RPF. 2005 prescribed fire for ecosystem management in Mount Robson Provincial Park