

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project title: Expansion of ecological, silvicultural and technical knowledge on forest fires (ErWiN)

Project ID: 282

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Within the ErWiN project (funded by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture and Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety under the code 2219WK54A4), we plan to write a review paper about the current state of research on wildfires and fuels in temperate forests of Central Europe.

As fuel availability in the understory and near the forest floor is a critical driver of wildfire spread through a forest, but information on understory and surface fuels is scarce in the scientific literature, we aim to provide a broad overview of the fuel situation in temperate forests of Central Europe using the ICP Forests data. We aim to extract information on the quantity of different fuel components: litter, deadwood, grasses/forbs and understory shrubs and trees, preferably in form of mass in tons per hectare. The data may be further analysed with respect to different overstory tree species to draw potential conclusions from forest type to the expected fuel situation below the canopy. The derived fuel quantities can be used as inputs to common fire behaviour models such as FARSITE/FlamMap and as such provide a starting point for the readership to experiment with fuel inputs for better understanding fire behaviour in their area of interest.