

Symposium on Fire Management in Cultural and Natural Landscapes,  
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## Developments in Prescribed and Wildfire Management in UK

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### Introduction

- Land use issues:
- Prescribed burning:
- Research:
- Training:
- Multi-stakeholder Wildfire Groups:

## Mixed land uses



## Well burned moorland - high quality mixed habitat



## Heather Burning



## Red Grouse



## Red Deer



## Normally no fire in the forest



- Fear of damage to trees.
- Lack of knowledge of fire behaviour and fire effects

## A gap between the hill and the forest



## Burning – different objectives



- Left for forest regeneration (conservation)
- Right for hunting land use
- Real difference?

## Burning to make better Capercaillie habitat



## Good & bad burning



- Muirburn Code (Best Practise Guide)
- New regulations
- Conservation designations

## Heavy heather fuel load



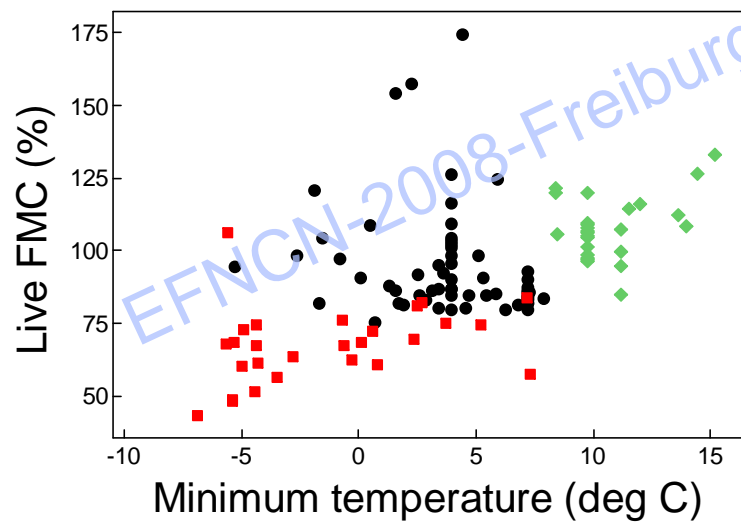
## High Intensity Fire



## Research

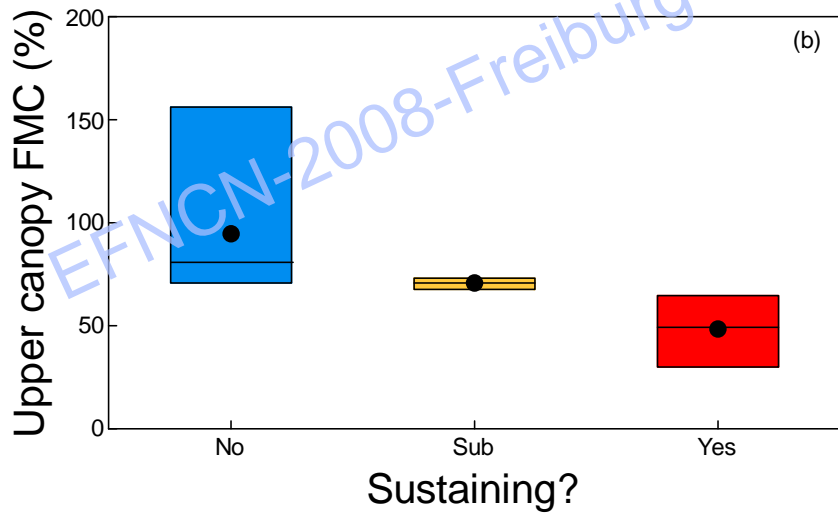


## Heather Fuel Moisture

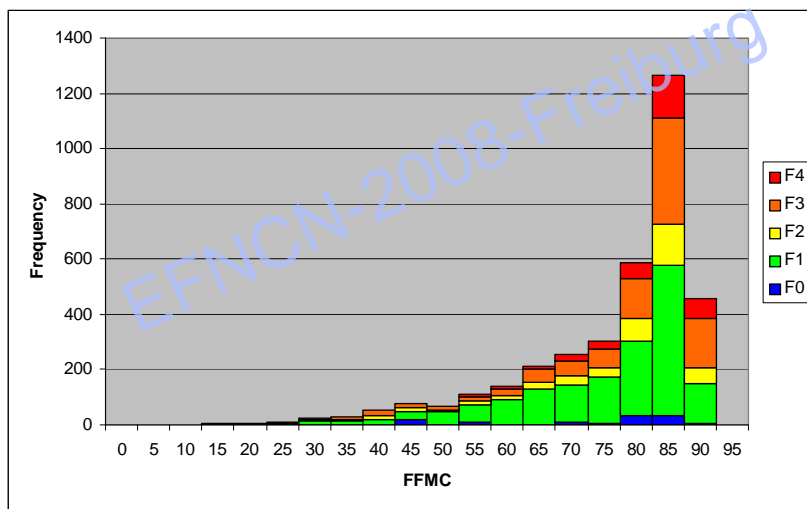




# Ignition experiments



# Canadian FFMC & Wildfires



## Carbon budgets & water quality



- Debate about impact of prescribed burning on carbon budgets
- Debate on water quality
- Fire frequency & location

## Carbon Sink Comparison

- Forests 150, Million tonnes
- Peat Soils **8 Billion tonnes**

## Organic / mineral soil layers



## Smouldering fire in organic soils



No roots – all fall down!



## Ignition of peat/organic soils

- Controlled by:
  - Fuel moisture
  - Inorganic content
- Research Edinburgh University Fire Engineering Department

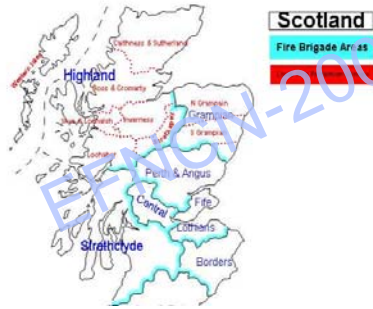
## Training

- Competency based training - standards
- Experience “on-the-job”
- Links with Fire Paradox & Eurofire Projects

## 2003 - Wildfire Response



## Wildfire Groups



- Initially local groups – land managers & fire service
- Now national groups – Scottish & English Wildfire Forums
- Multi-stakeholder public / private sector partnerships

## FIRE GROUPS

- Land Owner
  - Fire Map
  - Fire Plan
  - Insurance
  - Labour/equipment (specialist)
    - Helicopter
    - ATV Fire fogging units
  - Access
  - Mutual Assistance
- Fire & Rescue Service
  - Liaison mechanism
  - Link to control room
  - Labour & Equipment
  - Command & Control Structure
  - Mutual Assistance

## Summary

- Debate on habitats, carbon budgets & water quality
- Technical and regulatory changes to Prescribed Burning
- Research: heather fire modelling & peat fires
- Habitat and fire management competency based training
- Multi-stakeholder Wildfire Groups: public / private partnerships

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