

# A SYNTHESIS ON CROWN FIRES IN CONIFER FORESTS IS UNDERWAY

Martin E. Alexander

The Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) has elected to support a project aimed at synthesizing the currently available information on the characteristics and prediction of crown fire behavior in conifer forests (Alexander and others 2010). This would include such facets of crown fire behavior as the onset of crowning and the type of crown fire (passive, active, independent) and the associated spread rate and fireline intensity in relation to the wildland fire environment (i.e., fuels, weather, and topography).

While the focus is on North American forests, the synthesis is intended to be global in nature and is intended for multiple audiences ranging from the general public to college students, fire and land managers, university professors, and other researchers.

In addition to summarizing the existing scientific and technical literature on the subject, project members are also actively seeking assistance from individuals in the form of field observations of crown fires and related experiences as well as still pictures and video footage.

We are interested in hearing from you, the wildland fire community, as to your opinions on the sub-

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*Fayette Lake Fire burning in lodgepole pine at about 9,000 feet (3,000 m) elevation near the Continental Divide on the Jim Bridger Wilderness, Bridger-Teton National Forest, WY. Photo: Richard Claypole, Forest Service, Klamath National Forest, Happy Camp Ranger District, CA, 1988.*

ject of crown fires and any specific questions, research needs, or knowledge gaps that you would like to see addressed or discussed in this

crown fire synthesis project. Feel free to contact any project team member.

To learn more about JFSP Project 09-S-03-1 and ensuing developments, visit the crown fire synthesis project Web site at <<http://www.fs.fed.us/wwetac/projects/alexander.html>>.

## Reference

Alexander, M.E.; Cruz, M.G.; Vaillant, N.M.; Peterson, D.L. 2010. Towards a crown fire synthesis: what would you like to know and what might you be able to contribute? In: Proceedings of 3rd Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference, 25–29 October 2010, Spokane, WA. Birmingham, AL: International Association of Wildland Fire. CD-ROM. ■

## JFSP Crown Fire Synthesis Project Team Members



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