

McCaw, Lachlan, Dr (from DPaW website)



Senior Research Scientist with twenty years experience of research into fire behaviour and fire ecology in forests and shrublands of southern Western Australia, and eight years of research into karri silviculture. Ten years experience of research administration and management as Research Centre Manager, Program Leader and Section Manager. Academic qualification: Bachelor of Forest Science (Hons.) from the University of Melbourne, 1979. PhD from University of NSW (1997).

Appointed as Research Scientist with the Forests Department at Dwellingup in June 1981 to investigate aspects of fire ecology during summer fires in the jarrah forest. Transferred to Manjimup in December 1983 to undertake studies into prescribed burning of young regrowth stands of karri. This area of research has subsequently expanded to include prescribed burning of regrowth stands after first thinning. Commenced experimental studies of fire behaviour in mallee-heath at the Stirling Range in 1989, and have continued to develop this work through involvement in operational fire management in parks and reserves within the South Coast Region. Assumed responsibility for ongoing program of silvicultural research in the karri forest in 1993, with current projects including four thinning experiments in regrowth stands, espacement trials, and preliminary studies of the effect of soil disturbance on seedbed receptivity. In 1996 commenced a major collaborative study with CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products into the behaviour of summer fires in jarrah forest fuels of varying ages since last fire (Project Vesta). Participated in deployment of Australian/New Zealander fire management specialists in August/September 2000. Other research interests include dendrochronology, and the ecology and biogeography of Western Australian native conifers.

Positions held within Science Division:

- Program Leader, Karri program - October 1986 to December 1987
- Manager, Manjimup Research Centre - February 1988 to December 1997
- Section Manager, Natural Products - September 1995 to September 1997
- Project Leader, Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management - 1998 to present

Committees and working groups: Native forest management

Projects

- Post fire response of mallee-heath vegetation at Stirling Range National Park.
- Increasing productivity of karri regrowth stands by thinning and fertilising.
- Espacement effects on the development and form of regrowth karri stands.
- Project Vesta - prediction of high intensity fire behaviour in dry eucalypt forest.
- Regeneration success measures and monitoring methods for sustainable forest management.