# NEW PERSPECTIVES ON HEATHLAND MANAGEMENT UNDER INFLUENCE OF EXTREME WINTER DROUGHTS

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15<sup>th</sup> European Heathland Workshop | August 2017





# **PRESENTATION**





## **LAND-USE CHANGE**

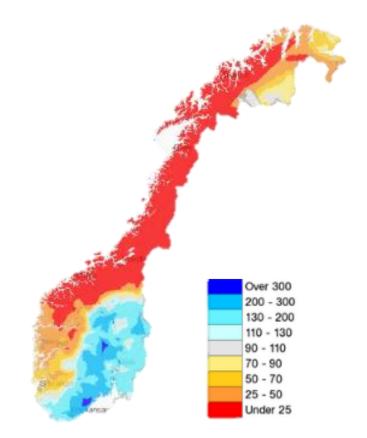
- Heathlands are normally characterised by extensive management regimes
- Land-use change
- ✓ Low management intensity
- ✓ Abandonment
- ✓ Biomass accumulation
- √ Succession





## WINTER DROUGHT

- Atlantic heathlands are normally characterised by a moist climate
- Typically 1000-2500 mm precipitation per year in Norway
- Winter drought periods:
- ✓ No rain
- ✓ No snow
- √ Wind
- √ Temperatures below zero
- ✓ Low relative humidity



Percent deviation of precipitation (mm) between January 2014 and the Normal Period (1971-2000).

# **INCREASED LANDSCAPE FIRES**

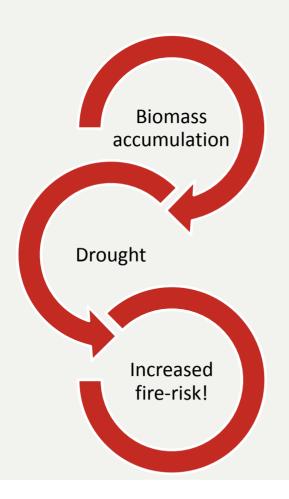




Photo: Ove Magne Ribskog / Flatangernytt.no



## LANDSCAPE FIRES – CONCERN AMONG PEOPLE



#### DSB vil slå sammen brannvesen med tvang

Direktoratet for samfunnssikkerhet og beredskap ønsker seg færre og større brann- og redningsvesen rundt om i landet. De mener arbeidet går for tregt, og vil tvinge gjennom sammenslåinger.



#### Kven har skulda for Flatangerbrannen?

Politiet har framleis ikkje funne ut om nokon kan reknast som straffeansvarlege etter Flatanger-brannen for over eit år sidan.



#### Ingen straffes etter Flatangerbrannen

Nord-Trøndelag Elektrisitetsverk slipper straffansvar etter Flatanger-brannen i januar 2014. Politiet har henlagt saken etter ett års etterforskning.



# Storbrannen i Flatanger: - Politiet manglet kart

Da den største brannen i norsk etterkrigstid blusset opp i januar 2014 manglet politiet i Flatanger i Trøndelag de kartene de trengte.



#### Eitt år sidan storbrannen i Flatanger braut ut

Det er eitt år sidan katastrofebrannen i Flatanger braut ut. Lyngbrannen herja i fleire dagar, og blussa opp fleire gonger. Mange vart heimlause.

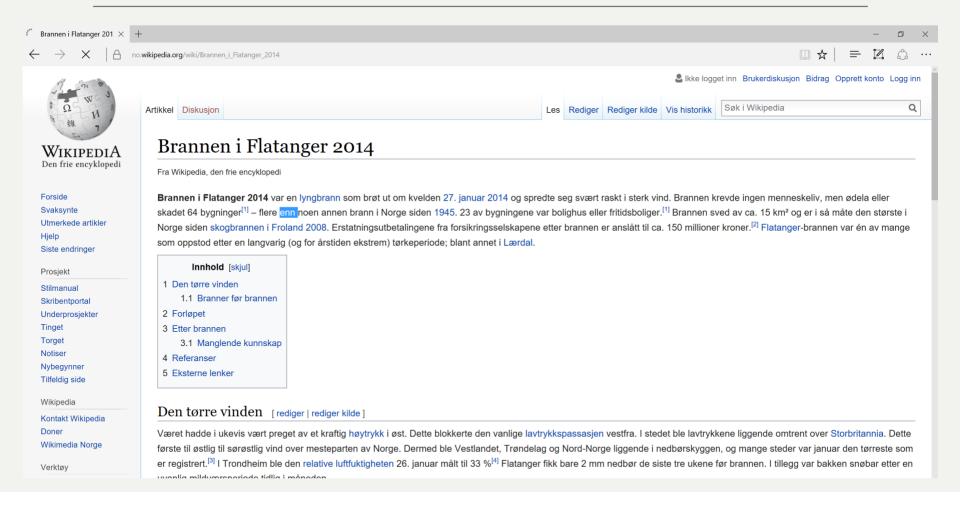


#### Flatanger-familie ser lyst på framtida

Tirsdag er det ett år siden den skjebnesvangre lyngbrannen brøt ut i Flatanger. For de rammede familiene nærmer gjenoppbyggingen av hverdagslivet seg endelig slutten.



## **LANDSCAPE FIRES IN 2014**





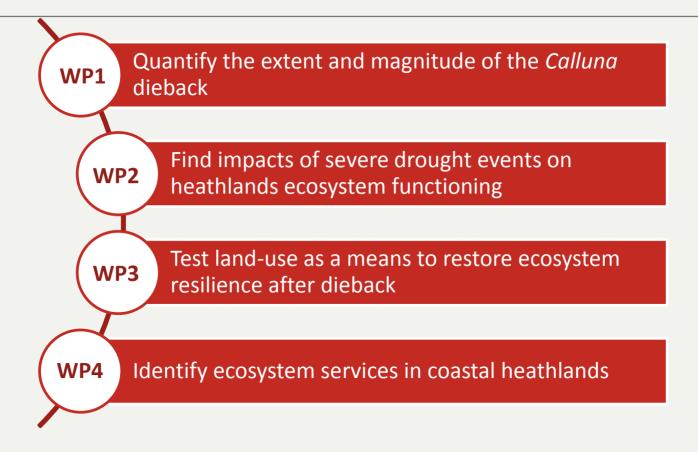
## **NEW PROJECT: LANDPRESS**

- LandPress: Land use
   management to ensure
   ecosystem service delivery
   under new societal and
   environmental pressures in
   heathlands
- Norwegian Research Council
- 2016-2019
- Lead by University of Bergen





### **WORK PACKAGES**



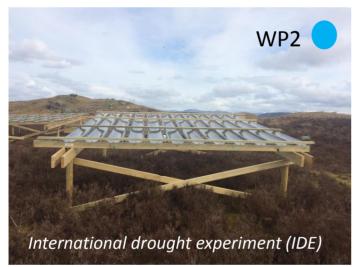


# **IMPORTANT QUESTION**

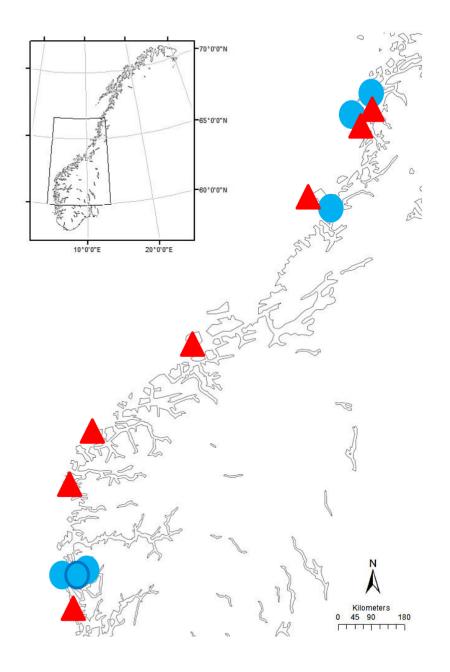
• Does drought tolerance vary across climatic and land-use gradients?















#### Siri Vatsø Haugum

20. juli kl. 11:03

Stemningsrapport frå nord: det har slutta å regne, vi har sjølvfiska torsk til middag og varmlunsj i felt, vi har fått dreisen på floraen i rikheia og livet er generelt veldig bra!



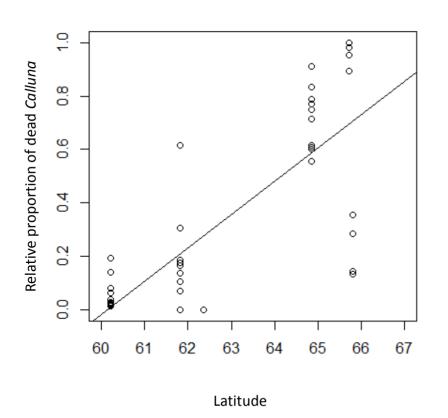
# **DROUGHT DAMAGE & CLIMATIC GRADIENT**







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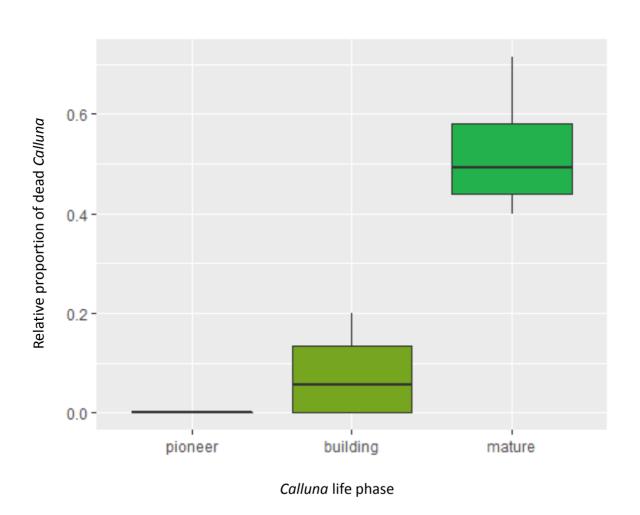


# **DROUGHT DAMAGE & LAND USE GRADIENT**





## **DROUGH DAMANGE & LAND USE GRADIENT**



## **DROUGH DAMAGE & FIRE RISK**



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

#### Fire Safety Journal

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/firesaf



Unmanaged heathland - A fire risk in subzero temperatures?

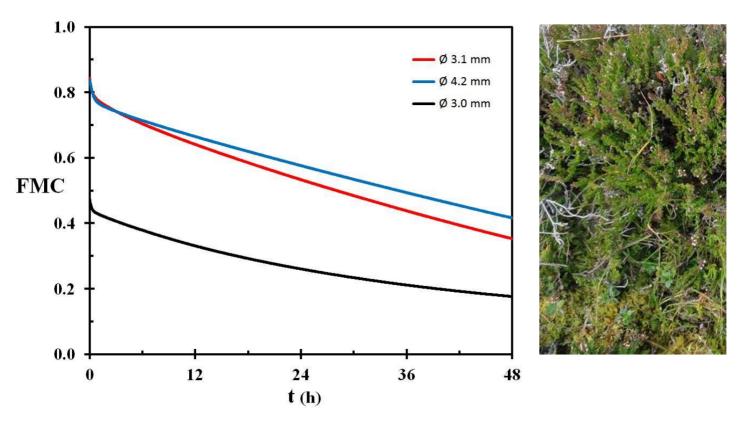


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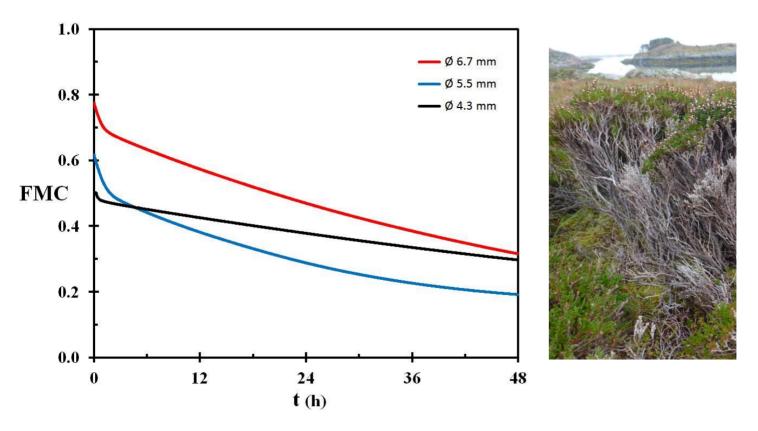


## **VITAL AND GREEN CALLUNA**



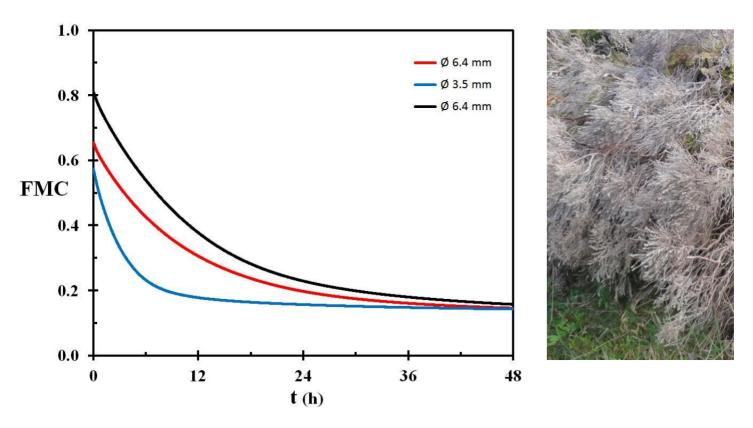
FMC (Fuel moisture content) as a function of time (hours) in live and vital Calluna. Numbers refers to the test specimen diameters.

## **DAMAGED CALLUNA**



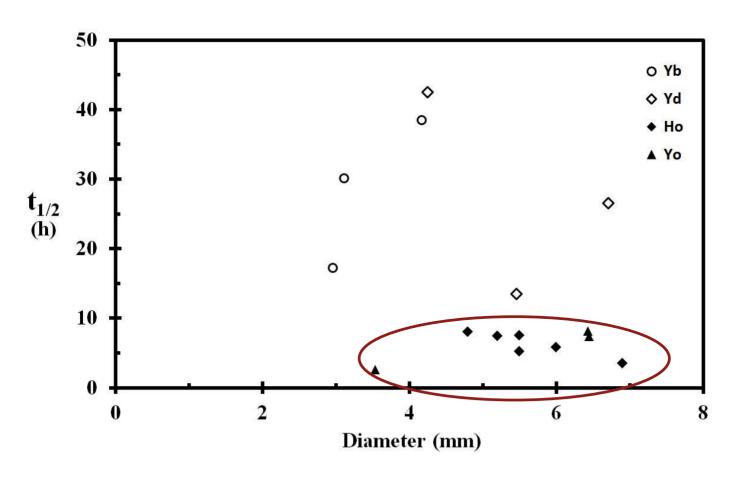
FMC (Fuel moisture content) as a function of time (hours) in drought damaged heather. Numbers refers to the test specimen diameters.

## **DEAD CALLUNA**



FMC (Fuel moisture content) as a function of time (hours) in dead (old degenerated) heather. Numbers refers to the test specimen diameters.

## **DRYING HALF TIME**



Drying half time  $(t_{1/2})$  as a function of diameter for live and dead test specimens (open and closed markers, respectively).

## **DROUGHT DAMAGE & FIRE RISK**

 Dead Calluna exposed to 50% RH air, may become suspectible to fire within two days during wintertime and one day in warm weather



Photo: Trønder Avisa



# **NEW PERSPECTIVES**

• Easier to influence the (lack of) management than the weather...





## **PLEASE CONTACT US**

• The project will run until 2020 – cooperation?

We're really interested in topics such as:

- ✓ Physilogical effects of drought
- ✓ International drought experiment (IDE)
- ✓ Effects of drought on carbon in soils
- ✓ Fire risk and cellular automation modelling
- ✓ Ecosystem servises related to redused firerisk











