Handout M21. Drama in a forest ecosystem

Produce a play that shows the audience about your forest ecosystem, how fire changes it, and how it changes without fire.

1. Get together with all of the students representing species in your ecosystem. This is the cast for your play. Some students will be in more than 1 play, so figure out how to “share” them.

2. Learn about succession by discussing the needs of each cast member, which you learned from student presentations based on the essays in the FireWorks Encyclopedia.

3. Select one person to narrate the presentation. That person will narrate and will also portray his or her character in the play.

4. Prepare your play. Make it about 15 minutes long.

5. In your play, show:
   a. how the various organisms interact (who needs whom for food or shelter)
   b. at least 1 fire. Show the kind of fire that was typical in this kind of forest in the centuries before about 1900.
   c. how your forest ecosystem changes right after fire and then as years go by.
   d. how your forest community has changed over the past 100 years or so, especially if there have been no fires.

6. Perform your play for your class or another audience.