Living Among The Ash: The Impacts of Wildfire on Wildlife Use Patterns on a *Pinus banksiana* (Jack Pine) Barrens

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**Goals**

- Evaluate species-specific differences in wildlife occurrences within the burn (2018) vs unburn (1957 burn) sites over time
  - Diversity
  - Seasonal usage
  - Predator-prey dynamics

**Findings**

- Deer occurrences in unburn > burn (browse availability)
- Hare immediately shifted from burn (loss resources/hiding cover) and returned the next growing season timed with regenerating ericaceous shrubs
- Ambush predators (bobcat/fisher) spent first year post-fire in unburn (hunting cover/prey abundance), used habitat equally until spring 2022. Then accumulation of coarse woody debris (CWD) created structural complexity for a return to the burn
- Coursing predators (coyote) primarily remained in the burn until summer 2020, then shifted to the unburn summer 2022 as CWD constrained mobility and reduced prey visibility
- Flat Rock wildlife occurrences in the winter decline as overwintering may occur in the surrounding hardwood forest

**Methods**

- Game cameras continuously monitoring wildlife occurrences
- Fall 2018-Fall 2022: (n=8 cameras)
- Fall 2022-current: (n=5 cameras)
- CamTrap package in R for workflow and image archiving