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CONFÉRENCE:

Forest ecosystems under construction: Land reclamation research in the Alberta mineable oil sands

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Résumé: The goal of land reclamation after oil sands mining in northeastern Alberta is to create functional, self-sustaining forest ecosystems similar in species composition to natural forests. A study based at the CNRL-Horizon oil sands mine is comparing ecosystem development on different operational reclamation soil treatments, i.e. upland based forest floor-mineral mix and lowland based peat-mineral mix, in comparison to natural forest benchmarks. An ecosystem based approach is being taken to study a suite of ecosystem components and functions including tree establishment and productivity, understory plant community diversity, soil microbiome, nutrient cycling, and surface hydrology.