

News from the Editor

Marilyn Bittman, *JEM* Managing Editor

The hot topic of the day is certainly climate change: how it already affects our environment, and how communities and economies will adapt. In this issue of *JEM*, FORREX is pleased to feature current climate change related information to help keep our readers abreast of today's environmental challenges, providing valuable knowledge and sustainable models to our professionals as well as our communities.

LINK News Articles

To link us with information pertaining to this hot topic, **Cindy Pearce** and **Ajit Krishnaswamy** introduce *Pathways to Climate Change Resilience: Guidebook for Canadian Forest-based Communities*. The authors explain how this guide is meant “to encourage ongoing adaptations throughout [communities] by incorporating climate change information into everyday decisions.”

The value of forest carbon cannot be underestimated. In “Updating the FORREX Report on Carbon Management in British Columbia’s Forests,” **Mike Greig** and **Ajit Krishnaswamy** summarize the content of their upcoming *JEM* article, which will examine current projects and explore the opportunities and challenges in realizing the full potential of British Columbia’s “forests for forest carbon.”

Traditional ecological knowledge may be applied to our ever-growing “complex environmental and social realities.” **Ellen Simmons’** article reminds us of this with her highlights of guest speakers’ presentations from the “Indigenous Earth: Praxis and Transformation” conference that was held last year.

The tiny knapweed nemesis, *Larinus minutus*, is the focus of **Don Gayton’s** “A David and Goliath Story.” Both enlightening and entertaining, this story takes us back four decades to when biocontrol insects were first released to combat knapweed.

Bill Bourgeois speaks to the *Healthy Forests–Healthy Communities: A Conversation on BC Forests*, and how this non-partisan initiative works to inform both government and decision makers on the value of forest management and the importance of its inclusion at all levels to maintain the sustainability of the province’s forests. He outlines 12 key challenges that face the province.

JEM Articles

This issue of *JEM* provides some thought-provoking articles on insects, animals, and diseases and takes us through several habitats—forests, alpine, and wetlands. **Amalesh Dhar** and **Chris Hawkins’** discussion paper examines the regeneration and growth of forests following mountain pine beetle attack. The article provides some valuable information on forest management after an infestation and, most importantly, pinpoints a few key gaps in knowledge that need to be addressed through further research.

A stand establishment decision aid by **Michelle Cleary**, **Rona Sturrock**, and **Janice Hodge** provides readers with important forest management guidance on laminated root disease. This extension note summarizes the current state of knowledge regarding the disease: general occurrence, how it spreads, how to manage the disease, and then provides a helpful list of knowledge resources for further information.

“Global Weirding in British Columbia: Climate Change and the Habitat of Terrestrial Vertebrates” by **Fred L. Bunnell**, **Laurie L. Kremsater**, and **Ralph W. Wells** focusses on the many variables of climate change, specifically on vulnerable habitats of the alpine and wetland areas. The authors point out the basic issue of incoming/outgoing water and expand their article to illustrate three approaches to projecting trends in wetland habitat.

Ken Day, **Cathy Koot**, and **Alan Wiensczyk** provide a valuable, three-part practitioner’s guide to the shelterwood silviculture system in British Columbia. Part 1 examines the associated advantages and risks and how to implement the system, “especially on area-based tenures and private land.” Part 2 looks at the “interplay of stand dynamics, disturbances, and regeneration.” This section is particularly valuable to those interested in managing stands for specific objectives such as regeneration ecology as it thoroughly examines the competitiveness of tree species and the factors that encourage or discourage stand growth. In part 3, the operational side of shelterwood silviculture is taken into account, specifically during the harvesting phase. The article examines the planning of harvest entries, posing some questions for consideration, and emphasizes the importance of protecting the soil and overstorey, and allowing for regeneration.

In this issue of *JEM*, two extension notes outline the silviculture options in ranges designated for the conservation of two woodland caribou subspecies in British Columbia: **Scott McNay**’s looks at northern caribou and **Dennis Hamilton**’s mountain caribou. McNay focusses on the designation of forest stands for northern caribou habitat, reviewing strategic silviculture strategies for woodland caribou habitat and forestry operations. His research also takes into account the implications of the mountain pine beetle infestation in the northern caribou’s habitat.

Concentrating on population recovery of the mountain caribou, Hamilton looks at silviculture practices that can preserve suitable habitat conditions for the mountain caribou, with the key “emphasis placed on early- and late-winter caribou ranges and habitat attributes.” The article concludes with guidelines and options for managing provincial forest stands that have been designated for the survival of this group.

The ability to adapt to change, whether driven by climate, economic, or social factors, can be enabled through accessing, sharing, and using best available knowledge. We hope you find this issue of *JEM* of value as you contribute to decisions supporting sustainable natural resource management.