

New on-line journal takes an ecosystems approach

John Innes, Chair, FORREX Board of Directors

The launch of a new journal is not always welcomed. Practitioners, researchers, and policy makers face an ever-expanding range of reading material that is becoming progressively more costly to purchase. Much of this information deals with the minutiae of science and has little relevance to practitioners. Consequently, finding relevant material is ever more time-consuming, whereas time always seems to be in short supply. However, the problems we face over the lands that we manage are increasingly complex. It is no longer sufficient to rely on training received early in one's career—knowledge is expanding exponentially and most practitioners do not have the time or capacity to become fully familiar with each new development in their field. With the introduction of a results-based forest management system in British Columbia, this knowledge gap is likely to become even more significant.

The *British Columbia Journal of Ecosystems and Management* aims to provide information to practitioners and policy makers about the management of ecosystems particularly, but not exclusively to those of British Columbia. It does this through a mix of papers ranging from perspective papers on current issues, through to extension notes and research reports. In so doing, it will provide practitioners with direct access to the latest scientific information in a timely and cost-effective manner.

As can be seen from this first issue, the journal covers a wide range of topics. The two “Perspectives” papers both deal with First Nations' issues. As the Province of British Columbia inches towards a final negotiated settlement with First Nations, the role of First Peoples in the management of the land can only increase. This journal will have an important role to play not only in transferring knowledge to First Nations' practitioners, but also in helping them to transfer knowledge to others.

The other papers in this issue deal with forestry topics. Forestry remains the single most important land use in the province, but the journal is seeking to expand beyond forestry issues. By taking an ecosystems approach, it will be able to incorporate all aspects of land management.

The *British Columbia Journal of Ecosystems and Management* has an exciting future. By using current electronic communications technology, it is readily available to researchers not only in the province, but also worldwide. Linked to the Natural Resources Information Network (<http://www.forrex.org/nrin>), it will be a part of the knowledge base that is required for the better management of our resources now and in the future.

