

# Benefiting from experience, and taking responsibility for our future

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**T**opics in the current issue range from technology to philosophy, from species at risk to rural communities at risk. Articles look back as a means of informing our decisions about the future. When resources are limited and values diverse, we need to have open discussions about the choices we're making to avoid unforeseen impacts on our quality of life. Once again, each *JEM* Research Report, Extension Note, and Perspectives article offers self-assessment questions (provided on page 81) to highlight take-home messages.

Following our regular articles, we include a special Proceedings section documenting presentations from "Forests and Natural Resources in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century," FORREX's Science Forum held on August 31–September 1, 2005, in Kamloops, B.C. As described in John Innes' opening Popular Summary, the Forum aimed to highlight important messages from the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) World Congress as well as science, policy, and operational innovations from British Columbia, bringing global forest science and local adaptations to bear on integrated resource management challenges.

## **In This Issue . . .**

Preceding our articles, we've included Hal Reveley's response to the Roosevelt Elk Wildlife Habitat Decision Aid published in *JEM* 6(1). We appreciate that Hal took the time to share further insights on this topic, and invite readers to help us improve access to science-based information by contributing such responses.

Teti and Pike explore the influence of operator variability on the accuracy of angular canopy density estimates, which are widely applied in wildlife habitat, forest regeneration, and ecological studies. Results suggest that training improves accuracy and that errors associated with any ocular-type canopy density measuring instrument should be documented before it is used to make statistical inferences.

In the context of achieving biodiversity objectives in managed forests, Houde, Bunnell, and Leech describe four steps in the adaptive management process, explain how effectiveness monitoring fits into the process, and provide a case study that describes how this process is currently being used in British Columbia. Another article by Bunnell, Campbell, and Squires proposes criteria for selecting species for conservation action in order to avoid past mistakes and more directly address global stewardship responsibilities.

Michael Blackstock delves into our collective responsibility and shared values around water—he seeks to answer three questions posed by Elder Mary Thomas using the concept of "Blue Ecology," which interweaves Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Western science. Stemming from this discussion, Blackstock presents five guiding principles to help mediators and forest managers build co-operative cross-cultural solutions.

Expanding on their presentations at the FORREX Science Forum, Rob Kozak and Cindy Pearce share their perspectives on the future of resource-dependent communities to provide context for a synthesis article highlighting a number of community economic development case studies. Schooling and Cumming developed this synthesis article, with the help of many experts and community contacts, to provide access to disparate published and unpublished information—in summarizing case studies on a wide range of community-based initiatives, we have aimed to highlight "lessons learned" as a contribution to the body of experiential knowledge on this topic in British Columbia.