News from the Editor

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When faced with complex challenges, it is human nature to develop frameworks that help us understand and manage the complexity, and to use such frameworks as predictive tools. The articles and the 2006 Science Forum proceedings in this issue of *JEM* reflect this approach in the areas of policy formulation, avian biodiversity–bark beetle interactions, water quality, stand establishment, forest health, and sustainable forest management planning.

In This Issue

Wellstead, Davidson, and **Stedman** lead off with a Perspectives article that expands on a framework for planning adaptive actions around forest-related climate change issues, first presented by Spittlehouse and Stewart in *JEM* 4(1). The authors discuss five policy process approaches, and their applicability to the current mountain pine beetle (MPB) outbreak, with the goal of informing and supporting implementation of needed policy changes.

The MPB is having a range of effects on the complex, strongly structured wildlife communities known as "Nest Webs." In their Discussion Paper, **Martin, Norris,** and **Drever** track changes in forest stand conditions and avian biodiversity over the course of the MPB outbreak, and raise issues regarding maintenance of critical habitat for cavity-nesters. Just prior to publication, the team was excited to document cavity use by a certain species for the first time in their 10-year study—see their "Test Your Knowledge" questions to find out more!

Another framework, the biogeoclimatic ecosystem classification (BEC), is in its second decade of application in British Columbia as a means of regionally grouping our province's diverse climate, soil, and characteristic vegetation types into zones. Given that this system reflects watershed properties that influence water quality, the team of **Luider, Scherer,** and **Curtis** wished to evaluate the BEC system's predictive utility as a watershed characterization tool. As the system accounted for a significant amount of variation in water quality, they plan to further develop the approach by considering other variables and extending the approach temporally.

The Stand Establishment Decision Aid (SEDA) system, collaboratively developed by FORREX and a range of partners, is another example of a format designed to make complexity manageable. In this issue, three SEDAs are presented:

- **D'Anjou** and **Turner** outline site characteristics for relevant site series, harvesting considerations, silvicultural considerations, autecological characteristics, and other values for paper birch and fireweed vegetation complexes, and provide extensive resource and reference lists for both.
- For both the spruce weevil and the western spruce budworm, **Heppner** and **Turner** describe susceptible stands and hazard ratings by BEC subzones, general information, harvesting and silvicultural considerations, and forest productivity implications.
- **Sturrock, Zeglen,** and **Turner** outline these same considerations for laminated root rot, as well as host information and other effects and associations.

Proceedings from the 2006 Science Forum, "The Art and Science of Sustainable Forest Management Planning," make up the final section of this issue, aiming again to integrate science, Indigenous, and experiential knowledge into useful frameworks. Various perspectives on principles and practices, dimensions of stewardship, certification schema, and land use planning processes contributed to the dialogue that we are pleased to document through this collection of submitted Popular Summaries.

Coming Up

Looking ahead to Volume 8 of *JEM*, we will present thematically related clusters of articles in each issue. As always, Reader Responses are a welcome contribution to the dialogue we aim to support, and we encourage you to share your ideas by submitting a Response to the Managing Editor at ***jem@forrex.org***