

News from the Editor

Julie Taylor Schooling, Corporate Publications Specialist

Authors of articles in this issue of *JEM* have sought to understand patterns in space and time as the basis for management of, and response to, these patterns. Articles explore pure- and mixed-species management regimes, applied definitions of old growth, mountain goat use of winter habitat, harvest block pattern as a function of logging road density, natural regeneration and forest bird response to partial cutting, and characterization of mountain pine beetle infestation hot spots.

In This Issue

Kabzems, Nemec, and Farnden found that white spruce grown without aspen had significantly greater rates of growth within 13–17 years of establishment. The Mixedwood Growth Model, however, predicts future productivity gains of 21% for mixtures compared to pure spruce. Read more on these regimes and their potential contributions to achieving forest-level objectives.

Recommended landscape-level objectives for old-growth retention—touching on management, natural disturbance patterns, inventory and assessment, and monitoring—emerge as a result of Hilbert and Wiensczyk’s review of old-growth definitions, management approaches, and conservation issues.

The goal of supporting resource managers’ decisions about conserving and managing mountain goat winter habitat in coastal British Columbia motivated Taylor and Brunt to identify habitat attributes regularly selected by goats.

Habitat fragmentation due to logging road networks prompted D’Eon to pose the question, “Do larger, more aggregated harvest blocks create less road?” Results showed strong correlation of road densities with total amount of harvesting, but no correlation with spatial patch indices, suggesting that efforts to lower road densities by planning aggregated blocks may be ineffective in some cases.

Steen, Waterhouse, Armleder, and Daintith report that small harvested openings in the SBPxc subzone can be naturally restocked by lodgepole pine, but higher-elevation blocks in the MSxv need to be planted unless more than 7 years is allowed between harvest entries on caribou winter range. Also, the irregular group shelterwood and group selection systems recommended to manage northern caribou will maintain bird communities typical of mature to older lodgepole pine forests, conclude Waterhouse and Armleder in a related study.

What patterns emerge through interaction of mountain pine beetle infestations with landscape characteristics over time? A practical technique described by Nelson, Boots, Wulder, and Carroll illuminates how beetles use resources in terms of stand age and composition, elevation, and aspect, as well as how persistence of infestation hot spots responds to treatment.

Coming Up

JEM 8(2) will present two series of articles: the first by authors at the University of British Columbia on socio-economic indicators and trade-off analysis, and the second on the challenges and opportunities facing small tenures in the province.