

News from the Editor

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The articles in *JEM* 10(1) address both biotic and abiotic elements of our ecosystems, explore relationships in both structure and function, and recognize both the influence and reliance of humans on our natural resources.

This issue features two in our series of forest health Stand Establishment Decision Aids (SEDAs) that are designed to summarize information forest managers need to mitigate the impacts of pests and diseases. Descriptions of susceptible stand types, recommended management practices, productivity considerations, and reference lists are provided in this issue for *Dothistroma* and for White Pine Blister Rust.

Three articles describe survey methods, findings, and recommendations related to Marbled Murrelet habitat with an emphasis on nesting habitat. First, Burger's Extension Note on air photo interpretation and low-level aerial surveys assesses the application of these methods to mapping of small patches or larger polygons. Managers will benefit from this guide to the methods' suitability and limitations as well as references to more detailed resources on testing and applicability. Second, a Research Report by Waterhouse, Burger, Lank, Ott, Krebs, and Parker describes the use of low-level aerial surveys in mapping microhabitat features associated with frequently selected Marbled Murrelet nest sites, and the applicability of ranking habitat using this method as the basis for forest management decisions. Third, Burger and Waterhouse's Discussion Paper synthesizes information on relationships between habitat area, habitat quality, and populations of nesting Marbled Murrelets. They conclude that most, but not all, nests are found in habitat rated as Moderate, High, or Very High according to the classification system they describe.

As described in the Research Report by Wulder, White, Grills, Nelson, Coops, and Ebata, the authors examined data from 1999 to 2005 to determine the effectiveness of aerial overview surveys in capturing the increasing area, severity, and spatial variability of British Columbia's mountain pine beetle infestation. They recommend reporting of both severity and cumulative impacts of the infestation over time.

Lodgepole pine plantations in British Columbia's Central Interior are the focus of Opio, Fredj, and Wang in their Extension Note on profitability of manual brushing in young stands. The results and economic framework they present in this synthesis will help forest practitioners to analyze the value of brushing in terms of return on investment.

Interest in management and harvest of a non-timber forest product motivated Kranabetter, Williams, and Morin to prepare their Extension Note describing the ecology, habitat, and extent of the Pacific golden chanterelle in Haida Gwaii.

Soils and drainage, key features in chanterelle habitat, tie in to the Discussion Paper by Smerdon, Redding, and Becker on the topic of forest management effects on groundwater hydrology. They introduce the role of groundwater in watersheds, present an overview of our province's groundwater resources, and describe the influence of various management activities and natural disturbances on these resources.

It is the behaviour of surface water, on the other hand, that concerns Green and Westbrook in their Research Report on observed changes in structure of riparian areas, stream channel hydraulics, and sediment yield following the removal of beaver dams from Sandown Creek in the East Kootenays. Their results confirm common assumptions about beaver ponds' roles in trapping sediment and reducing flow velocities.

We trust that this collection of articles provides natural resource practitioners with a combination of useful context and readily applicable guidance as the basis for informed decision making. We encourage readers of *JEM*'s print issues to visit our website which now allows us to highlight topically themed articles and issues along with the newest content posted in the issue-in-progress. We will be launching our reader survey early in the new fiscal year, and look forward to your responses!