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This issue of the *Journal of Ecosystems and Management* reflects some of the ongoing challenges facing British Columbia forests. Our lead article, “Thinning of a Ponderosa Pine/Douglas-Fir Forest in South-Central BC: Impacts on Understorey Vegetation” by **Kim Ducherer, Yuguang Bai, Don Tompson, & Klaas Broersma**, examines possible methods to increase aboveground biomass productivity and restore understorey species diversity. One of the main foci of their study was the positive results of thinning, which was found to enhance the growth of understorey species. The authors also took into account forest in-growth and tree encroachment into grasslands, which fuel the risk of wildfires.

Don Gayton's article, “Documenting Fire History in a British Columbia Ecological Reserve,” reviews fire management options within Ponderosa Pine stands. Due to numerous factors, decreases in fire frequency have been documented in many parts of the ponderosa pine parkland. He explains why suppressing fires has proven to have negative ecological consequences to forest health.

Interior spruce species is the focus of **Richard Reich, Kathy Lewis and Alan Wiensczyk's** article. “Tommentosus Root Rot Forest Health Stand Establishment Decision Aid” provides foresters with valuable information on management practices that best deal with Tommentosus in stands where it is likely to be a significant problem. The authors also supply a helpful resource and reference list.

From the dry interior, *JEM* moves to BC's rainforest. “A Framework for Climate Bio-monitoring with Lichens in British Columbia's Inland Temperate Rainforest” by **Asha Marie MacDonald, Darwyn Coxson, & Curtis Björk** explains how climate change may be affecting our rainforests and how lichens serve as biomonitors of ecosystem health. They conclude that comparing data on lichens in various inland rainforest areas may show how our rainforests are coping with climate change.

JEM ends this issue with an “Understanding Occupational Health and Safety Culture for BC Aboriginal Fire Crews and Emergency Service Personnel: Research Update” by **Natasha Caverley, Brent Langlois, Jeff Eustache, Ajit Krishnaswamy, Bart Cunningham, James MacGregor, and Ken Strobl**. This article speaks to the valuable contribution and challenges of the fire crews dedicated to protecting our forests, as well as managing disaster responses and conducting search and rescue missions.

Since 2001, author contributions have enhanced and helped turn *JEM* into a successful publication; however, severe budget constraints dictate that the full publication cost of all future articles (excepting those already in the editorial process) must be borne by the authors or their institutions.

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