

News from the Editor

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We open this issue of *JEM* with a variety of *LINK News* articles meant to stimulate conversation within the natural resource community and encourage further commitment to sharing of knowledge with colleagues and readers. **Kathie Swift's** interview with **Rob Brockley**, retired Research Silviculturalist, answers questions about the implementation of the forest fertilization program in the British Columbia Interior. **Wayne Stetski** reports on stakeholder interest in a new integrated partnership to achieve conservation objectives on private land in the West Kootenay.

Some forested ecosystems are maintained by regular fire, a topic **Don Gayton** examines at the Trout Creek Ecological Reserve near Summerland, B.C. His *LINK News* article focusses on the intimate relationship between vegetation and fire, specifically bunchgrass under the canopy of ponderosa pine. **Ellen Simmons** looks at the collective endeavour of the “Keeping Nature in our Future” initiative, which represents a plan to determine priorities for protecting the health and resilience of the South Okanagan–Similkameen’s natural areas. She summarizes the First Nations’ input to this biodiversity conservation strategy at a recent seminar.

Two articles by **Alan Wiensczyk** are also featured. The first examines the lessons learned over two decades of long-term silviculture research in the wetbelt forests of the Northern Rockies and Cariboo Mountains east of Prince George. He concludes our *LINK News* section with highlights from the Northern Silviculture Committee’s visit to the Vanderhoof Specialty Wood Products site, with a focus on new directions in forest management.

This final issue in Volume 11 offers readers an eclectic assortment of articles, some detailing our extreme ecosystem challenges. **Ashley Covert's** article looks at the wildfire season of 2007 that affected areas of southeastern British Columbia and how straw mulching has been used to not only control debris flow and flooding, but to also assist vegetative recovery. Her 2-year study evaluates the effects of straw mulching in these areas and draws both positive and negative conclusions.

The stewardship of our environment is greatly affected by the evolution of societal attitudes as explained in **Chris Eastaugh's** article, “Green Philosophies in the Face of Climate Change.” Altering societal attitudes will hinge on changing the way people perceive nature and their views of foresters’ ability to manage. The author proffers that climate change is a new opportunity for foresters to present their case, promoting “the concept of humans as responsible stewards of nature.”

Two watershed management articles focus on the “Considerations for rehabilitating naturally disturbed stands.” In Part 1, **Michael Milne** and **Doug Lewis** emphasize the need to use a qualified professional when “planning stand rehabilitation activities following large-scale natural disturbances in the Interior of British Columbia.” Their work, supported by the Forests For Tomorrow program, takes into account the need for clear objectives for both timber and non-timber values. In Part 2, **Dave Huggard** looks more closely at stand-level treatments and the hydrological equivalent clearcut (ECA) area. He addresses the need to carefully consider conditions when salvaging or planting and how either can produce a “greater or lesser ECA effect over time.”

Five extension notes in this issue of *JEM* highlight nature's key elements—the winds that affect trees left standing after harvesting; the waterways that determine the size of fish; the ravages caused as insects respond to warmer winters; the uncontrolled growth of grasses after too many summer fires; and the delicate balance involved in keeping natural habitats liveable for moose.

What happens to standing trees—dead, green-tree, or wildlife tree patches—in the forests we harvest? Through two surveys separated by 12–16 years, **Douglas Steventon** takes a longitudinal look at the windthrow characteristics of 159 retention patches left in harvested areas. He compares several areas over time and concludes that we need a better understanding of windthrow retention requirements across spatial and temporal scales to better manage forests.

Nick Baccante has worked extensively in the study of Arctic grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*) populations, hypothesizing the reasons for both the distribution and size of the fish over the course of a stream. This study compares his previous work in Alaska streams with two rivers in British Columbia and one in Alberta, suggesting that “size may have management implications through the use of size-based fisheries regulations.”

Two extension notes in this issue are Stand Establishment Decision Aids (SEDAs). **Jill Dunbar, Larry McCulloch, and Richard Kabzems** speak to the increasing abundance of the indigenous bluejoint grass, which is found throughout British Columbia. This SEDA provides valuable information on managing bluejoint in northern British Columbia where the grass has become a problem weed species in ecosystems affected by disturbances such as fire, flooding, insect outbreak, windfall, and timber harvesting. **Robert Hodgkinson, Ken White, and Art Stock's** SEDA examines the spruce weevil and how this major pest has affected the growth and development of interior spruce. They focus on the destructive nature of this weevil on the leading shoots of young trees and offer possible solutions that may help reduce the damage. Both SEDAs provide hazard ratings for the region they refer to as well as harvesting and silvicultural considerations.

Wayne Wall, Myriam Belisle, and Lindsay Luke's Wildlife Habitat Decision Aid provides land and resource managers with useful information on British Columbia's moose populations, outlining key habitat elements and the need for land use plans for moose in managed forest areas. Critical habitats are currently monitored by government agencies.

Join FORREX in recognizing the *International Year of Forests*. The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests. FORREX is proud to bring this initiative to the attention of our readers and will be featuring the logo in this issue of *JEM* as well as upcoming issues throughout the year. For more information, go to: <http://www.un.org/forests>.

Like the constant ebb and flow of the ocean, our environment keeps changing whether through human intervention or through natural occurrences. In today's fast-paced and ever-changing world, trying to keep abreast of the changes that can and may affect our environment is a constant challenge. Events of the past month have created an even greater respect for nature, perhaps imploring us all to examine further how we can work in harmony without tipping the critical balance. Being informed, sharing information, and exchanging ideas may be a small pebble in the scheme of things, but by pooling these resources we just might give nature a chance. Share your ideas by keeping your articles flowing into *JEM*: <http://jem.forrex.org/index.php/jem>. Scroll down the page to the “Submit” arrow and follow the instructions. And remember to register to keep up to date with both *LINK News* and *JEM* articles—just click on the “Register” envelope.