

News from the Editor

Marilyn Bittman, *JEM* Managing Editor

This issue of *JEM* opens with a variety of *LINK News* articles, all of which highlight the diverse activity and promising developments that are taking place within the natural resource community in British Columbia. In this vein, **Joey Chopra**, **Tegan Adams**, and **David Zehnder** introduce an exciting new project called the British Columbia Ecological Services Initiative. The objective of this project is to demonstrate a voluntary incentive-based model that encourages British Columbian farmers to adopt management practices that maintain and enhance the ecological goods and services that they manage.

Another innovative project taking place is the restoration of an ecologically damaged site in Lillooet, BC, which has been turned into a stewardship education “commons” for the nearby community. This project, as discussed by **Don Gayton**, is multifaceted and ecologically unique. To the credit of the Lillooet Naturalist Society, grasslands are now developing and animals are returning to the area.

Each year, our province plays host to important gatherings that help to stimulate conversation within the natural resource community about province-relevant issues. In this issue of *JEM*, **Ellen Simmons** gives us an overview on the Eco-health, Ecosystems, and Watersheds Workshop. The focus of this two-day event, which took place in Merritt, BC, in October 2011, was to probe some of the watershed issues in the Nicola Valley. During the summer, another gathering was held in BC’s interior: the Northern Silviculture Committee’s 2011 Summer Field Tour took place in June 2011 in the Mackenzie Forest District. **Alan Wiensczyk** tells us that participants on this tour were invited to discuss, debate, and learn about the application of silvicultural practices at the field level.

Promoting improvements in silvicultural practices is an ongoing theme in British Columbia, and in keeping with the this theme, Oscar García discusses the need for and the usages of Scube, a dynamic stand-level growth model for interior spruce, a hybrid complex of white and Engelmann spruce. He also explains that a similar model is being developed for aspen, which will be applicable to spruce-aspen mixed stands.

Finally, **Tom Hobby** wraps up the *LINK News* section, with an important discussion about the stumpage and tenure issues affecting wildland urban interface fuel treatments in British Columbia. Hobby emphasizes that fuel treatment is critical to effectively reducing hazardous fuel, lowering the likelihood of catastrophic wildfires and annual fire suppression costs that increasingly threaten rural communities in British Columbia.

This issue of *JEM* also brings together a diverse range of articles that make valuable contributions to the information currently available to practitioners and others in the community. The first article by **Ivy B. J. Whitehorne**, **Megan L. Harrison**, **Nancy A. Mahony**, **Patrick Robinson**, **Alicia Newbury**, and **David J. Green** is a research report that discusses the methods, results and, importantly, the management implications of an original study on the effects of cattle grazing on birds in interior Douglas-fir forests in British Columbia. In a field where studies of the effects in forests are few, the authors investigate the effects of

cattle grazing in forests on vegetation, the relationships between vegetation characteristics and the abundance of birds, and the overall effects of grazing on the bird community.

Climate change persists as an issue of significance and urgency. Not only is it important to be aware of its effects, but it is also necessary that current practices be adaptable to the changes it causes. The discussion paper by **Susan March Leech**, **Pedro Lara Almuedo**, and **Greg O’Neill** proposes assisted migration as a potential climate change adaptation strategy. Assisted migration is the purposeful movement of species to facilitate or mimic natural population or range expansion, and it can be a powerful and inexpensive option for forestry practitioners who are interested in how to adapt practices to accommodate predicted changes in climate.

A more frequently discussed (and rapidly evolving) approach to tackling climate change in British Columbia is forest carbon management, a practice that seeks to mitigate the effects of greenhouse gases. **Mike Greig** and **Gary Bull** provide an update on British Columbia’s position on managing for greenhouse gas emissions, with a focus on the role of forests.

What can we learn from each other? This is a theme explored by **Dan Orcherton** in his discussion that focuses on cultural ecological knowledge. Sharing knowledge is important within natural resource management, as are the ways in which it interacts with and can contribute to the existing body of Western science in this field.

The articles in this issue of *JEM* remind us that there is important work to do – issues such as climate change, catastrophic wildfires, and the efficient use of resources are real and urgent. The topics brought forth also remind us about important work that is being done: here, each author makes his or her own important contribution to the “conservation conversation.” Hopefully, these articles, and the developments and projects they describe, inspire each of you in your unique way and help to contribute to the continued efforts within natural resource management.

JEM would not exist without the valuable contributions of our many authors, peer reviewers, our dedicated copyeditors (Veronica Bonifacio, Hayley Jones, and Naomi Pauls), and our designers (Susan Bannerman, Karen Heathman, and Brian Hydesmith) who all make this journal a viable tool in sharing information that is valuable to all in the ecosystem and management sector. Thank you.

Looking forward, *Volume 13 of the BC Journal of Ecosystems and Management* promises to provide readers with a fresh new look to our articles. We have made strides in the redesign of *JEM* and are looking forward to sharing this exciting new look with you. In the meantime, we invite you to send in your articles: those within the academic areas of perspectives, research reports, or discussion papers. And, we also invite our readers and authors to submit shorter *LINK News* articles that highlight the work you are involved with—those innovative practices or concepts applicable to sustainable natural resource management.



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