

News from the Editor

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Managing change at various scales emerges as a theme yet again in this issue of *JEM*. In support of that ambitious goal, a number of authors discuss tools and approaches that inform decision making, thus lowering the risk that decisions may have unintended ecological impacts.

Boon's article opens this issue of *JEM* by exploring how changes related to mountain pine beetle (MPB) infestation, canopy death, and salvage logging will affect hydrological and geomorphic processes, vegetation dynamics, and aquatic ecosystems. The study's results indicate that dead stands no longer behave like live stands, but don't yet resemble cleared stands, a finding that will contribute, along with future studies, to a better understanding of hydrology in snowmelt-dominated watersheds.

Huggard, Klenner, Kremsater, and Dunsworth address the need for useable measures of connectivity to support its use as a coarse-filter indicator of landscape-level biodiversity. Findings demonstrate that the dispersal-based algorithm they describe can support comparisons of planning scenarios, indexing of progress over time, and more detailed landscape planning.

Vernier and Bunnell also describe a coarse-filter approach that combines bird monitoring data with forest inventory and biogeoclimatic data as the basis for developing species-habitat relationships. The ability to link these models with existing databases through GIS supports decision processes in conservation planning by incorporating landscape attributes that can be manipulated through management actions.

Explorations in old forest remnants in the Albert River Valley led Houde, Leech, Bunnell, Spribille, and Björk to conclude that conserving old-growth forests can play a critical role in sustaining biodiversity. In areas of rare and poorly represented ecosystem types, field surveys are a critical complement to coarse-filter assessments in the process of identifying ecosystems worthy of conservation.

The final two papers in this issue focus on the economic and ecological dimensions of mushroom management. Berch, Ka, Park, and Winder delve into similarities and differences in the commercial mushroom industry in the Republic of Korea and British Columbia. They conclude that there is potential for exploration and exploitation of novel native forest mushrooms as well as for cultivation of additional exotic species with demonstrated market value.

Pine mushroom was the focus of the study by Ehlers, Fredrickson, and Berch, who located, mapped, and described habitat characteristics for 25 plots near Nakusp in the West Kootenays. This characterization was used as the basis for recommendations to BC Timber Sales regarding adaptive forest management in the area.

We're pleased to feature proceedings of the 2007 Science to Management Forum, this year entitled "Overcoming Obstacles to Variable Retention in Forest Management." We include abstracts or popular summaries from 27 oral and poster presentations on topics including business drivers for retention; the need for variable retention from diverse perspectives; practicalities, constraints, and tradeoffs; lessons from case studies; and "the way forward."

Coming Up

The planned cluster of articles around the topic of ecosystem-based management is now slated for *JEM* 9(1), which will open on-line in January 2008. As always, articles are posted on the *JEM* Web site as soon as they are completed. The special series of articles on non-timber forest products, developed in collaboration with the Centre for Non-timber Resources, will be published by early summer 2008. Please take a few moments to share your thoughts on *JEM* with us through our annual reader survey in February, or email us anytime at jem@forrex.org