

Marilyn **Bittman**

Volume 13.3 of the *Journal of Ecosystems and Management* offers readers an eclectic collection of articles from invasive weed species to the information needs of silviculture practitioners and researchers, to the effects of tree spacing over time, to a literature review on the juglone, as well as the protection of ancient western redcedar stands. JEM also offers readers a collection of “News” articles: **Tongli Wang** looks at the distribution of ecosystem climate niches in British Columbia, **Glen Okrainetz** and **Al Neal** bring to our attention prescribed fire treatment, and finally, **Suzan Lapp** describes how teams were first brought together in Saskatchewan in a tournament to address drought issues. The tournament has become a popular event and has since been held in Alberta and British Columbia, with plans well underway for 2013.

The first article is a research report by **Don Gayton** and **Val Miller**, “Impact of Biological Control on Two Knapweed Species in British Columbia.” The authors examine two types of knapweed species – diffuse and spotted – on numerous rangeland sites and how biological control has been used to successfully control this invasive species. They also offer explanations as to why certain biocontrol agents have been successful.

Al Wiensczyk's “2010 Silviculture Techniques Information Needs Survey” provides valuable information to BC natural resource management professionals on silvicultural systems and stand management techniques. The purpose of this FORREX generated electronic survey was to help pinpoint the main knowledge gaps within silviculture. Survey respondents identified numerous knowledge gaps and also identified other areas that will potentially affect silviculture systems and stand management techniques: climate change, forest fire frequency and intensity, as well as the impact of new industry. The information gathered will assist decision makers in extension programming, academic research programs, as well as government policy-makers.

Forest health is top of mind for **Percy Folkard**, **Lauchlan H. Fraser**, **Cameron N. Carlyle**, and **Rick Tucker**. Their extension note, “Forage Production Potential in a Ponderosa Pine Stand: Effects of Tree Spacing on Understorey Plants after 45 Years,” examines understorey forage plant communities in relation to tree density. Using an experimental ponderosa pine stand that is 45-years old, their research revealed that tree spacing positively affects the growth of understorey plants and the productivity of tree stands, and that silvopasture principles could be applied advantageously to other ponderosa pine stands.

Maryon Strugstad and **Saško Despotovski's** “A Summary of Extraction, Synthesis, Properties, and Potential Uses of Juglone: A Literature Review” provides a summary of current information available on the extraction, synthesis, properties, and potential uses of the walnut tree's juglone, an organic compound that occurs naturally in the tree's



leaves, roots, and bark. Although juglone is toxic to marine organisms and can affect the growth of other trees, it also has a wide variety of beneficial uses in medicine. This article provides historical uses of juglone, some background on its toxicity, and outlines, with recommendations, common methodologies for extraction.

“Analysis of Ancient Western Redcedar Stands in the Upper Fraser River Watershed and Scenarios for Protection,” by **Darwyn S. Coxson, Trevor Goward, and David J. Connell** looks at the emerging research around rare forest types within British Columbia’s inland temperate rainforest, specifically the ancient western redcedar. The authors detail how there has been widespread loss of the trees due to the development of road and rail corridors as well as actual logging, which has affected the watershed in this area. To preserve the remaining ancient cedar stands, the authors provide three scenarios that might assist in protecting these trees, as well as supporting the watershed around them.

Adding to JEM’s diverse collection of knowledge dissemination is a book review by **Don Gayton**: “The 9 Habits of Highly Effective Resource Economies: Lessons for Canada” by the Canadian International Council. This book was written in 2012 and makes valuable recommendations around Canada’s natural resource sector and offers up a Canadian success story.

Knowledge dissemination is a resource that should not be overlooked. It is the labour of researchers and practitioners who spend hours, days, months, years, even decades, gathering valuable information and then recording it to share with others. Within the FORREX realm, this includes foresters, silviculture specialists, agronomists, geomorphologists, hydrologists, etc. These individuals, or teams of individuals, bring to light the past, present, and future of the environment around us. Simply put: Is it doing well? Does it need attention? How can we prevent this? How can we make it work better? Through decades, even centuries, our researchers and academia have gathered this valuable information to share with managers, policy-makers, business partners, and governments. Without knowledge dissemination we will take a giant step backward.

Although JEM has been open access in the past, lack of funding has required us to review our business model. Should we only publish articles that support JEM through author fees? Should we build on a subscription model? Should we combine the use of author fees and subscriptions to continue publishing? For those of you who have enjoyed reading JEM for free, it has come as a shock not to receive the print version, but this is saving us thousands of dollars as well as trees. Currently, we are continuing to publish online under a subscription business model, with a one-year delayed access to those who do not subscribe. We encourage you to subscribe; we are hoping that the subscription model will soon be covered by a JEM supporter or by more authors paying publishing fees, allowing us to provide you with full open access to the valuable articles submitted to the *Journal of Ecosystems and Management*. Thank you for your support and continuing interest in JEM.

