

News from the Editor

Marilyn Bittman, *JEM* Managing Editor

Non-timber forest resources play an increasingly important role in British Columbia's economy. To better understand the science and sustainable management of these important forest-based resources, FORREX partnered with Royal Roads University to produce a series of articles on this subject. In this edition of the *BC Journal of Ecosystems and Management*, we bring to the foreground a few of these resources. Bruce Fraser's guest editorial (see page v) introduces us to the complexity of our forests' variegated resources, and how effective non-timber resource management influences the ecological value of our forests, as well as the economic value to rural communities and the cultural value to First Nations.

Russell Collier and Tom Hobby speak to relationships between First Nations and non-timber resource management within British Columbia. They examine the holistic stewardship of our forests, addressing the importance of understanding how First Nations manage non-timber resources, the gains that have been achieved through policy, planning, and management, and conclude with recommendations for decision makers.

Two of the articles presented in this edition of *JEM* focus on the value of our forest mushrooms: morels and chanterelles. Michael Keefer, Richard Winder, and Tom Hobby examine the commercial aspects of harvesting morels in the East Kootenays. The authors highlight harvesting, forest management, and commercialization difficulties in an unpredictable ecosystem, and pinpoint the key areas of additional research required to support the continued healthy harvest of morels.

Tyson Ehlers and Tom Hobby's article on Vancouver Island chanterelle mushrooms sheds some light on wild mushroom harvesters and how a relatively low income does not dissuade them from picking mushrooms for both personal use and recreation. From this article, we learn that chanterelle mushrooms are tied to good forest management practices, local markets, and global trade. The authors conclude with suggested forest management practices that might produce higher yields.

Salal has been commercialized in British Columbia for decades and harvested by First Nations for centuries. Tom Hobby, Kari Dow, and Sara MacKenzie explain how First Nations used salal both as a source of food and as a trade product. The authors look at salal's commercial development on southern Vancouver Island and how it has become a viable industry with a value well into the millions of dollars. Of concern are issues affecting financial viability, livelihood security, and resource conservation in the salal sector.

Forest management, whether timber or non-timber, is the key topic of two other *JEM* articles. Wendy Cocksedge, Brian Titus, and Darcy Mitchell's article focusses on benefits and barriers in the province's compatible management of timber and non-timber resources. Their findings come from a survey that involved roughly 3500 British Columbia individuals and organizations. Their results underline a need for a stronger voice in the non-timber forest product sector, the clarification and strengthening of Aboriginal rights, and further research. Darcy Mitchell and Tom Hobby look at the

“new world of forest management” and how the development of non-timber forest resources may assist rural and Aboriginal communities previously dependent on the forestry sector. These authors consider the benefits of fully incorporating non-timber forest products in forest planning and management through a discussion of four general forest management scenarios.

Brian Belcher, Rob Penner, Anne Munier, Tim Brigham, and Jodi Griffith outline the lessons learned from their assessment of Manitoba’s Northern Forest Diversification Centre. Because the harvest of non-timber forest products is essential to the livelihood of many living in Canada’s rural areas, a better understanding of the social, environmental, and cultural benefits associated with these resources is called for.

Two articles on other topics close this issue of *JEM*. Monica Mather, Trudy Chatwin, Jenna Cragg, Linda Sinclair, and Douglas Bertram take a close look at the Marbled Murrelet and its nesting habitat. They explain how and why the Marbled Murrelet Nesting Habitat Suitability Model for the British Columbia Coast is recommended to aid recovery of this threatened bird species.

Tracy Coombes, Agathe Bernard, and Gord Nigh analyze three types of forest access roads that effectively reduce the area that can be used for timber production. The authors present a sampling methodology that estimates the mean width of each type of road. The data obtained will serve to reduce the uncertainty in allowable annual cut determinations.

This issue of *JEM* also introduces “LINK News,” a feature that provides a means for FORREX to continue its long tradition of publishing newsworthy content. In our first LINK News article (see page vii), Sybille Haeussler shares insights on the ecological effects of climate change garnered through her participation at the Ecological Society of America’s annual meeting in August 2010. Anchoring this article is her personal list of the “Top 10 Big Ideas” emerging from the conference.

Your contributions to *JEM* and LINK News are highly valued, whether you are an article contributor, a peer reviewer, a loyal *JEM* reader, or part of our publishing team. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your valuable contribution in helping *JEM* disseminate ecosystem and management knowledge.