

Coastal Montane Biodiversity



Les Peterson

Introduction

The Coastal Montane Biodiversity Project is a comprehensive, integrated study of biodiversity in the high-elevation forests of coastal British Columbia. The general goal of the project is to provide foresters and biologists with new information concerning biodiversity as an aid to making the management decisions necessary for long-term health and sustainability of coastal montane ecosystems. Biodiversity is studied through an integrated approach to inventory, research, and adaptive management.

Some goals for the project include:

- ◆ Establishing lines of extension directly from researchers to resource managers.
- ◆ Modifying or creating policies or guidelines to better conserve and manage biodiversity.
- ◆ Providing training and experience through universities and colleges.
- ◆ Using data collected for multiple purposes.



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Jeffrey Joy

Rationale

Four critical issues facing forest management in British Columbia provided the impetus for studying biodiversity in coastal montane ecosystems:

- ◆ Depletion of timber in low-elevation forests, and consequent increase in timber extraction at higher elevations.
- ◆ Implementation of the Forest Practices Code.
- ◆ Lack of knowledge about higher-elevation forests and how they and the species in them respond to management actions.
- ◆ Increased criticism from society about how forests are managed.



Jeffrey Joy



Harry van Oort



The study area is located in the montane forests and alpine tundra surrounding Mt. Cain and Maquilla Peak, near the community of Woss, British Columbia on Northern Vancouver Island.

Products and Extension

Product development and extension of results to professionals, academics, and the general public will take place through:

- ◆ Peer-reviewed publications
- ◆ Species-specific research reports
- ◆ Modeling species-environment relationships
- ◆ Biodiversity modeling
- ◆ Ecosystem and habitat mapping
- ◆ Presentations at workshops and conferences
- ◆ World-wide web site <http://www.res.for.gov.bc.ca/projects/cmbp/>
- ◆ Presentations in local communities

Project Overview

A comprehensive study of biodiversity in the high-elevation forests of coastal British Columbia

A collaborative effort of the B.C. Ministry of Forests, the B.C. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, the forest industry, universities, and the private sector.

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