Integrated Forest Vegetation Management Systems (INFORMS)

Forest vegetation management (VM) is widely recognized as a key to rehabilitation of many backlog (NSF) sites. Competition from non-commercial species for space, light, nutrients, and water often inhibits or even makes impossible the establishment of commercial coniferous species. Although a wide variety of VM research and development activities had been underway for a number of years, some concern existed over the availability of the latest results and solutions for practising foresters.

To address this concern, the Canadian Forestry Service in 1985, through their UBC Faculty of Forestry Block Grant, joined forces with the Council of Forest Industries (COFI) in funding the development of the INFORMS vegetation management information exchange at UBC. (In 1987 the CFS portion of the funding shifted to the federal component of the 5-year 1985-1990 $300 million Canada-B.C. Forest Resource Development Agreement).

Currently INFORMS is fully active in Information exchange having developed a computerized vegetation management bibliography. INFORMS also publishes a newsletter twice annually covering current happenings in VM research and development, upcoming meetings and workshops, and an update on the computerized bibliography and literature searching services. The first three newsletters have been distributed to approximately 400 individuals.

The first issue, May 1987, deals primarily with six vegetation management research projects that were underway in the UBC Faculty of Forestry at the time of publication. These were:

1. Competition in lodgepole pine ecosystems by Phil Comeau.

2. The structure and competition of weed communities in the ESSF: Application to questions of seeding performance in backlog reforestation by Caroline Caza (FRDA cost-shared research project 3.32).

3. Belowground interactions between salmon and coniferous crop seedlings under different environmental conditions in cool humid biogeoclimatic subzones on Vancouver Island by Christian Messier (FRDA cost-shared research project 2.31).

4. Vegetation management demonstration site (Haney Research Forest) by John Karakatsouls.

5. Nutritional relationships in alluvial flood plain ecosystems by Donald McLennan (FRDA cost-shared research project 2.7).

6. Salal/cedar hemlock interagency research project (SCHIRP)

The second issue, released in December, 1987 included news and upcoming events along with highlights from a report prepared by Patty Balfour for the Wildlife Branch, B.C. Ministry of Environment and Parks, entitled; "Effects of forest herbicides on wildlife forage species in British Columbia." It also included a research summary by Ann McGee of the UBC Dept. of Forest Sciences on "Vegetation studies on transmission line rights-of-way in coastal British Columbia," and a discussion paper by Phil Comeau entitled: "Interference and competition in early successional forest communities."

The third issue Vol. 3, No. 1, March 1988 focuses primarily on the results of the annual workshop and meeting of the B.C. Vegetation Management Research Committee. The issue also reviews a number of recent books and articles on the topic of vegetation management.

INFORMS will continue to be available twice annually. To obtain the back issues outlined in this memo, or to have your name added to the mailing list, contact Dr. Sue Watts at the address below. Sue is also available to answer questions or provide access to the computerized VM bibliography.

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