

[JEM On-line](#) | [About JEM](#) | [Submissions](#) | [Subscriptions](#) | [Feedback](#)

## BC Journal of Ecosystems and Management

Volume 9 - Issue 2

Published by FORREX Forum for Research and Extension in Natural Resources

### Abstract

#### An old-growth index for Douglas-fir stands in portions of the Interior Douglas-fir zone, central British Columbia

O.A. Steen, R.J. Dawson, and H.M. Armleder

We describe a quantitative old-growth index for Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *glauca*) stands in two Interior Douglas-fir (IDF) biogeoclimatic variants (dk3 and dk4) in the central interior of British Columbia. The index uses stand structure data including basal area of very large ( $\geq 57.5$  cm DBH) and large ( $\geq 37.5$  cm DBH) trees, density of small ( $< 27.5$  cm DBH) trees, tree size variability, canopy complexity, density of declining and dead trees, and occurrence of canopy gaps. Three forms of the index were developed to accommodate different objectives and levels of data availability. Index values are grouped into four classes (early seral, mid-seral, mature, and old growth). Qualifiers of these classes provide additional descriptions of old-growth structural development as well as guidance for designing management practices to enhance old-growth development. A link is provided to a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that can be used to calculate old-growth index values using each form of the index.

Download Full [PDF](#) Article (277 KB)[print this page](#)  [email this page](#) [previous page](#)  [top of page](#) 