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## Structural and compositional responses to timber harvesting for an old-growth forest on Changbai Mountain, China – Short Communication

H. Gu, L. Dai

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Citation: Gu H., Dai L. (2008): Structural and compositional responses to timber harvesting for an old-growth forest on Changbai Mountain, China – Short Communication. *J. For. Sci.*, 54: 281-286.

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Broadleaved-Korean pine (*Pinus koraiensis*) mixed forest is a dominant native vegetation type in the eastern Eurasian Continent. We intended to examine the implications of high-intensity timber harvesting (ca 70% of stand volume) for the sustainable management of a mixed forest ecosystem. We measured trees at three sites: control without cutting, older-cut site cut in 1987 and newer-cut site (cutting in 1997). There were significant differences in structure and composition between these three sites in 2003. There were 4,441 trees of 14 species with basal area 56 m<sup>2</sup> at control plot, 6,314 trees of 16 species with basal area 9 m<sup>2</sup> at newer-cut site and 8,438 trees of 21 species with basal area 31 m<sup>2</sup> at older-cut site (all on the area of 1 ha). The high-intensity timber harvesting system helped promote natural regeneration and the growth of small trees but it also allowed light-demanding tree species to invade into the forest. Dominant position and suitable diameter distribution of economically important species (*Pinus koraiensis* and *Tilia amurensis*) were maintained across the three sites. The existing timber harvesting appears to consider short-term economic values to a larger extent than long-term ecological values. To manage the broadleaved-Korean pine mixed forest for both timber production and biodiversity conservation, timber-harvesting intensity must be lowered.

**Keywords:**

forest harvesting; stand structure; species composition; northeast China; forest conservation; *Pinus koraiensis*

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