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# Unanswered Questions/Comments from July 14 Forest Wildlife Habitat Management talk

**McComb, Brenda C** <Brenda.McComb@oregonstate.edu> Mon, Jul 20, 2020 at 8:11 AM
To: Forest Wildlife Habitat Seminars <forestwildlifehabitatseminars@doimspp.onmicrosoft.com>

Thanks everyone for attending the first lecture and for the questions. I provided my responses below to the questions that Jim accumulated from the Chat box on Tuesday, but I encourage all of you to weigh in with your views as well.

Brenda

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**From:** Siegel, Jim <Jim_Siegel@fws.gov>
**Sent:** Monday, July 20, 2020 5:12 AM
**To:** Forest Wildlife Habitat Seminars <forestwildlifehabitatseminars@doimspp.onmicrosoft.com>
**Subject:** Unanswered Questions/Comments from July 14 Forest Wildlife Habitat Management talk

**Unanswered Questions/Comments from the July 14 talk.**

**from Timothy Wilson to all panelists:**

"Regarding the biggest challenge in the last slide, do you think it is more important to manage what we have or try to increase the sizes of these forests?"

I think it depends on the location. In the US, the eastern hardwood forests are being gobbled up by development so the issue is simply having enough forest remaining to manage (including leaving it alone) to support species that are declining or at risk. Here is an example of an approach being used in Massachusetts: http://www.umasscaps.org/ Loss of forest land from development is certainly an issue in parts of the West and South too, but in Oregon, with the land use laws that we have in place, and with so much publicly managed land, management becomes a a higher priority (IMHO). Haven may be able to speak to issues in teh South better than I can, but there are efforts in place to conserve forest land in that region too, especially conservation of and restoration of longleaf pine systems.

**From James Murphy to all panelists:**

"Can you speak on any economic gains for managing a forest based on habitat selection over wood product based forest management?"

For species that select early successional stages of forest, such as deer, rabbits, hares, and quail, production of timber and production of these species is highly compatible. And tradeoffs are few. But for species that select habitat elements found more frequently in stnads and landscapes that represent conditions beyond typical rotation ages for timber production, there are tradeoffs between providing habitat through management and income from products, simply because longer rotations and retention of legacy elements or tree species that are not of high value reduce the income to the owner. We'll talk more about this in the upcoming lectures,

**From Mark Pfost to all panelists:**

"Wouldn't it also be necessary to modify management activities to measure response for a given species?"

It is a good point and it depends on the question being asked. In order to quantify preference as well as selection then sampling aspects of fitness over a range of resource availability would be important. But that range may occur in unmanaged conditions or in managed forests. Hoowever, if we wished to assess the type of management that best provides resources that support high levels of population fitness, then yes, creating a range of conditions over space

and time at appropriate spatial scales would be important to understanding how best to manage a stand for the species.

**From Sonja Weber to all panelists:**

"Can you please give me the website for Silvics of North America again?"

**From Jeff Horan to all panelists:**

"Silvic Manual: https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/misc/ag_654/table_of_contents.htm " from NCTC

Thanks Jeff!

**From William Vogel to host:**

"I have seen a lot of dead tops on relatively young cedar trees here in Washington over last5 to 7 years, is this also likely Vapor pressure deficit related? Or is there another disease going around in cedars/"

I'm not sure what is causing this, but a quick web search indicates that it may be the same phenomenon with VPD that we are seeing in Douglas-fir on the east side of the Coast Range. https://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/r10/forest-grasslandhealth/?cid=FSEPRD572074&width=full Klaus Puettmann, from OSU alerted me to this a few years ago, and since then I've seen a lot of stressed trees in this area that we do not see farther west. Perhaps others on the list serv can weigh in with their views.

**From Elizabeth Wood to all panelists:**

"There is a hemlock looper infestation in north and central Idaho causing some die back."

Thanks Elizabeth. There are other insects that attack terminal buds of trees (White pine weevil for example) that can also cause top kill. We will cover information on insect and disease issues in the second lecture.

**From Eric McDougal to all panelists:**

"How can forest managers at a large scale assist plant community habitat shifts that are likely to occur due to changing climate conditions?"

Eric, there is quite a lot of work underway to determine how best to facilitate assisted migration of plants and animals give climate change. Below are a few links. As you might guess, most of it has to do with planting commercial tree species or certain genotypes of species in places that would normally be considered off site to se how they would do in future climates. While we can make some reasonable guesses as to what species to plant where (I am planting the Willamette Valley strain of Ponderosa pine where I am seeing Douglas -fir dieback and the pines are doing great so far), there is still much that we do not know. Until we have better information, my recommendation would be to plant or establish through natural regeneration a diversity of tree species recognizing that some will be more tolerant of future conditions than others. But the focus has been on commercial species, not the species that have little to know commervial value, and to me, that represents a huge opportunity for learning more and assisting migration that is likely to support a more complete ecosystem.

http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/orforestscc/2016/04/26/considering-assisted-migration-for-trees-in-a-changing-climate/

https://www.fs.usda.gov/treesearch/pubs/58447

**From Katelyn Rasche to all panelists:**

"Can we have a link to the book?"

Jeff will send out a pdf of the the powerpoint that should have active links to the book and other resources.

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