

## FOREST SITE EVALUATION AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

Edited by D. W. Cole and S. P. Gessel  
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This book is a collection of 18 papers presented in 1986 at two special sessions of the 17th World Congress of the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO). Topics for the sessions were "Problems in Chemical, Physical and Biological Analysis of Site" and "Effects of Man's Activities on Long-Term Productivity". There are contributions from 10 countries including Greece, Indonesia, and Japan.

The intention stated in the preface was to publish, in book form, information that is not readily available elsewhere. The editors have taken a direct route to achieving just that, and the papers are left to speak for themselves. I found separation into two groups of nine papers a little artificial and would have preferred retention of the session titles, to maintain emphasis on the human dimension.

Under "Forest Site Evaluation", several papers discuss classification systems based on growth and composition of vegetation, soil characteristics, physiography, or ecosystem analysis. Problems associated with determination of site quality by vegetation or soil classification are outlined by A. P. G. Schönau. H. L. Gholz gives a similar perspective on the use of biophysical variables. A case is made for use of the Diagnosis and Recommendation Integrated System (DRIS) in forestry to identify the order in which plant nutrients at particular sites are likely to limit yield. Another paper, questioning laboratory analytical standards, offers practical advice which can only improve our perception of forest/soil relationships.

Under "Long-term Productivity", discussion of human activities and their effects centres on use of fertilisers, choice of crop (including alternatives to native species), understorey management, sewage disposal, and acid deposition. The effects of harvesting and burning are not addressed and there is no general overview.

It is good to have a nicely presented record of the meetings, even though the opportunity for providing a more comprehensive picture, with guidelines for sensible husbandry of forest (and research) resources has been missed.

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