

MANAGING FORESTS THAT WON'T STAND STILL

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According to some climate models, the forests of British Columbia should, if they know what's good for them, start to move northward at a rate of 100 km per decade. Some consider the unprecedented outbreaks of bark beetles, pathogens, and fires in B.C. a way to clear the path for the impending migration. Before you start to favor one tree species over another, let's seek a satellite view of the current situation, and assess options to manage forests. The potential exists to decrease the vulnerability of forests to fire, insects, and disease through selective thinning, shorter rotations, and by increasing biodiversity. What's desirable and what's sustainable also need to be discussed. British Columbia is at the front line, where policies designed to manage for forests in continuous transition will be tested. ~~The rest of the world will be cheering you on to find a successful way to cope.~~

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