



The Stand Management Cooperative: Celebrating 20 years of stand management research

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The Stand Management Cooperative (SMC) marked its 20th anniversary with a special celebratory meeting of old and new participants on September 20 –21, 2005 at the University of Washington's Pack Forest in Eatonville, Washington. Back in 1985, a group of visionary scientists and land managers met to create a source of funding and scientific expertise, and to ensure the continuity necessary to generate and archive high-quality data about the long-term effects of silvicultural treatments on stand and tree growth and on wood and product quality. The meeting celebrated the many successes and accomplishments of the SMC, a 40-member organization that represents the forest industry; state, provincial, and federal agencies; universities; consulting groups; and suppliers.

A few of the current members who attended the 1985 SMC inception meeting at the Pack Forest gave special presentations. **Dr. Robert Curtis**,

renowned emeritus scientist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, offered a historical perspective on the formation of the SMC. **Dr. James King** (Weyerhaeuser Company, retired) was present for the distribution of autographed commemorative reprints of his authoritative work entitled "Site Index Curves for Douglas-fir in the Pacific Northwest," originally published in 1966. **Dr. Dave Hyink**, a biometrician with Weyerhaeuser in Federal Way, Washington, provided an overview of the accomplishments of the SMC by presenting specific numbers and making the audience guess their significance (see table below).

Various Technical Advisory Committee members provided updates of current work, including:

- **Dr. Greg Johnson**, Weyerhaeuser Company biometrician, reported on the progress of work by **Dr. Martin Ritchie** (USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Station) who is calibrating CONIFERS (California and Oregon Interactive Forest Ecosystem Response Simulator), a young stand growth model, to include planted Douglas-fir in Oregon and Washington. The new version will

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Number	Significance
6	The number of computer software systems that have been developed by the SMC.
40	The number of past and present land-management organizations that have been or are part of the SMC.
87	The number of refereed scientific publications that have been generated through the SMC.
179	The number of individuals that have shared their experience and knowledge as members of the four SMC technical advisory committees (silviculture, modelling, nutrition, and wood quality).
447	The number of research installations that have been established by the SMC throughout Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia.
26 553	The total number of measurements that have been taken on SMC's permanent research plots.
14 468 619	The total of contributions made (in \$US) through dues, institutional support, and external research funds to the SMC over 20 years.
Way too many	The number of hours that have been spent determining the precise definition of breast height!
Not enough	The number of measurements of total height, height-to-live crown, and breast height age that have been taken.
Priceless	The benefit of having a continuing source of high-quality information on the long-term effects of silvicultural treatments and treatment regimes on stand and tree growth and development and on wood and product quality.

Table 1. Some Stand Management Cooperative accomplishments.

Day two dedicated to field tours

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be based on SMC Type III installations, which are designed to test the impact of espacement on nutrient availability, tree growth, and wood quality.

- **Dr. David Marshall** (USDA Forest Service) discussed a newly calibrated version of the individual tree growth model, ORGANON (ORegon Growth ANalysis and projectiON) that is now available.
- **Dr. Eini Lowell**, Wood Quality project leader (USDA Forest Service), described the use of new acoustic wave tools for testing wood quality and stiffness in standing trees and logs. The study will use the SMC Type II research installations (designed to test different levels of commercial thinning) as the basis for establishing tree to log to product (lumber and veneer) relationships.
- **Dr. Eric Turnbull**, Silviculture project leader

(University of Washington), described the successful establishment of three new Genetic Gain Type IV installations which examine various levels of genetics improvement, spacing, and vegetation control.

Day two was dedicated to field tours with stops at several SMC research installations in the area. Remarkable changes in tree growth and wood quality in response to the treatment regimes were noted at King Creek Type III installation (Type III installations test different planted spacings) and at Longbell Road Type I installation (Type I installations test different levels of juvenile spacing) tour stops. 🌲

For more information on the SMC and its contribution to Stand Management Research, including a large volume of on-line documents such as annual reports, newsletters, project descriptions, fact sheets, and working papers, visit <http://www.cfr.washington.edu/research.smc/index.htm>