Welcome to our newsletter

This is the second in a series of newsletters highlighting the work we are doing. Planning for the 2021 field season is now underway and most of the crew from last summer will be back for another field season this year. We have several new presentations to share with you as well as highlights from a newly submitted journal article.

Suzanne's upcoming book:

Our newly submitted paper is:


Forests are important for biodiversity, timber production and carbon accumulation, but these ecosystem services may be impacted by climate change. We collected field data from forests occurring across a 900 km climatic gradient to assist in forecasting these consequences. In arid Douglas-fir forests near Cache Creek and Merritt, BC, where the climate is warm and dry, Douglas-fir was the only tree species, whereas in more humid Douglas-fir-dominated forests in the West Kootenays a mixture of up to 9 tree species was found. Douglas-fir productivity, as measured by “site index” (height at a reference age of 50 years) declined from 30 to 15 m, and carbon stored within the forest ecosystem decreased from 565 to 222 Mg ha$^{-1}$ going from a humid to an arid climate. Ecosystem carbon storage was highest where there were the most tree species. High carbon storage was also associated with few herb species due to dark shady conditions under the productive humid forests. Carbon storage by ecosystem compartment was in the following order: aboveground live trees > mineral soils > large downed wood and dead standing trees > forest floor > small and fine downed wood > understory plants.

New presentations and media:


March 21, 2021. Secret Wisdom of Forests with Dr. Suzanne Simard. *Tree Talks with Canopy Planet & Dr. Suzanne Simard* (komusodesign.com)

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