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The Ecology and Biogeochemistry of Old-Growth Forests

Guest Editor:

Message from the Guest Editor

Deadline for manuscript
submissions:
closed (20 October 2020)

Old-Growth forests are ecological superstars, providing innumerable goods and services in the form of carbon storage, nutrient retention and cycling, species diversity, and rare habitat as well as aesthetic and spiritual value. Yet, the unique ecological and biogeochemical characteristics of old-growth forests remain under-studied and -reported relative to more broadly distributed early and middle successional forests. A consequence is old-growth forest management and land-use policies are less data-informed than their more abundant, younger counterparts. We invite papers that provide novel insights into the ecology, biogeochemistry, and/or management of old-growth forest, and particularly encourage studies that contrast old-growth and younger forests. We define “old-growth” broadly as primary or secondary forest with structural attributes associated with late-successional, but not necessarily steady-state, stages of ecosystem development. Such features should be clearly described in the methods and include a multi-layered and uneven-aged canopy structure, canopy gap formation, the presence of woody debris, and well-developed soils.



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Special *Issue*



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Message from the Editorial Board

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