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Predicting Vegetation Size Maps

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Message from the Guest Editor

The size distribution of trees in forest stands provides useful information for harvesting forest stands and for assessing the economic value, growth and yield. In addition, tree diameter and height distribution are correlated with species diversity and ecological values. It can also provide useful information on past disturbance events and the structure and successional status of a forest. The characterization of timber products and quality of ecosystem depends highly on spatial size distribution of trees in forest stand.

Since it is inefficient to measure the size of all the trees, the diameter distribution is normally assessed through the stem frequency distribution. Airborne laser scanning data and other GIS information has recently comprised a revolution in technological advancements with an enormous possibility for increasing the accuracy of large-scale forest inventories and reducing their costs.

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