Special Issue

Climate Change and Forest Disturbances

Message from the Guest Editor

Disturbances such as fires, tropical cyclones, and insect outbreaks have pervasive effects on forest structure, function, dynamics, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration. Climate change is predicted to affect the frequency and intensity of many types of disturbance. A large number of studies have examined the effects of disturbances on forest ecosystems. However, the changes in disturbance frequency/intensity may alter disturbance–forest interactions that are yet to be explored. From the perspectives of both theoretical understanding of disturbance ecology and practical management of forest ecosystems, we need more empirical and theoretical studies on disturbance–forest interactions in the context of climate change. Many of the disturbance–forest interactions vary among forests in different regions with different physical settings and biotic features. We need collective efforts from various regions to fully understanding disturbance–forest interactions from which to provide sound forest management practices that would be more sustainable under the (changing) disturbance regime.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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