

Book Reviews

Regenerating British Columbia's Forests, edited by D. P. Lavender, et al.
Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1990. Pp. xii, 387.
Illus. \$25.95 paper.

"Regenerating British Columbia's Forests," the brain-child of Prof. Lavender, head of the Department of Forest Sciences at UBC, brings together in one volume virtually all the scientific and technical knowledge and experience that is applied in the regeneration of B.C. forests. The list of fifty-eight contributors, all but two from B.C., is a virtual "who's who" of regeneration experts in the province. Twenty two chapters organized in five major sections deal with all aspects of regeneration from the social context, and the underlying ecological and physiological principles, to the actual procedures of planning and executing the process.

Section One describes the social context and provides the physiological and ecological background to regeneration procedures. Section Two deals with planning and monitoring procedures. The third section provides descriptions of natural regeneration and of site preparation. The fourth is allotted to a discussion of seedling production and the planting process, with a few pages devoted to direct seeding. The final section deals with pests such as competing vegetation, insects, diseases, and mammals.

The book is attractively produced, with many clear illustrations and tables. It brings together a wealth of information for practitioners and, in fact, for anyone interested in this crucial issue in the management of B.C. forests. A comprehensive set of references is provided, and the index is reasonable. Overall, it is well worth the price. If this volume does no more than help to integrate all the various aspects of regeneration, it will no doubt improve practice, and the effort to produce it will have been well worth while.

However, the volume very much reflects the current mindset of the community charged with the regeneration of forests in B.C. Throughout, the silvicultural system of clearcutting is assumed as the norm, the question

being how to achieve desired regeneration within that system. Other silvicultural systems such as the selection and shelterwood systems get about a page of text — hardly a critical evaluation. Furthermore, there is little serious consideration of regeneration systems and technologies used elsewhere in northern forests; rather, the emphasis is on the recent tinkering to improve the procedures and systems that have been developed locally over the last several decades.

Perhaps the greatest omission is the lack of any assessment of how well we are doing. A substantial chapter on monitoring regeneration programs is largely a plea to make such assessments systematically: it does not contain a single table describing the actual performance of the procedures currently in use. Perhaps this is not surprising. Data on seedling production and areas planted are readily available in great detail. However, a simple and easily applied test of seedling quality does not exist, leaving one to wonder how often poor quality or even virtually dead stock is the cause of failure. Similarly, the final success of the process in regenerating well stocked thrifty forests remains largely undocumented. We know that there is great variation in the degree of success from region to region, but the details are not easily available, and one suspects that in many cases the required information simply doesn't exist. This is a serious lack. Recognition of the occasional or sometimes widespread failure may be unpleasant, but no matter how good our science, if the recommended procedures aren't properly monitored and evaluated on a regular basis and under a variety of field conditions, we won't advance.

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The Same as Yesterday: The Lillooet Chronicle the Theft of their Lands and Resources, by Joanne Drake-Terry. Lillooet: Lillooet Tribal Council, 1989. Pp. xviii, 341. Illus.; maps. \$29.95.

Much of the native history of British Columbia, especially as written by historians rather than anthropologists, has been general in approach: dealing with "the Indians of British Columbia" rather than with single groups. That history has also been almost uniformly written by white people. The history of an individual tribe written by one of its members is therefore doubly welcome. Joanne Drake-Terry and the Lillooet Tribal Council are to be commended for writing and publishing *The Same As Yesterday*.