

Forests 2021 Special Issue Announcement

Title of special issue

Spatial Decision Support for Forest Management and Policy Formulation

Guest editors

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Aims and scope

Decision support systems for forest management have been steadily evolving since about 1980 in response to growing demand from forest managers for sophisticated analytical systems that can address the complexities of contemporary forest management issues such as adaptive management in the context of concerns for managing for forest ecosystem sustainability, integrity, and resilience while ensuring the provision of ecosystem services. In this same time frame, there has also been a steady shift in emphasis from stand-level to landscape-level decision support systems, in part driven by improved ecological understanding of, and appreciation for, the need to account for patterns and processes in forest management and planning.

Accordingly, the Editors of Forests have commissioned a 2021 special issue on spatial decision support systems and their application to state-of-the-art landscape solutions for forest management and policy formulation. In this initial call, manuscript proposals are invited on original research and review articles addressing:

- Contemporary, state-of-the art systems and their application, emphasizing spatial decision support for either forest management or policy formulation.

- Forward-looking (and perhaps more speculative) articles on how to advance spatial decision support technologies for forest management and policy formulation beyond the current state of the art.

Spatial decision support technologies have evolved on numerous pathways, including

- knowledge-based,
- probabilistic,
- and linear programming systems,
- as well as combinations of these and other technologies,

so articles addressing any of these areas are welcome.

Articles addressing complex spatial decision support topics, such as support for

- adaptive forest management,
- forest ecosystem sustainability,
- forest ecosystem integrity,
- forest ecosystem resilience,
- managing for pattern and process, and
- provision of ecosystem services

are especially encouraged.

Submissions

This announcement is an initial call for proposed manuscripts to be included in the Special Issue. Please submit proposals to Dr. Reynolds (keith.reynolds2@usda.gov) , including

- Proposed title of the manuscript
- Initial (tentative) list of authors, including names, affiliations, and email addresses
- A brief abstract if 100 to 200 words

Timeline

30 October 2020	Receipt of initial manuscript proposals from this call by Dr. Reynolds.
1 January 2021	Expanded set of manuscript proposals managed by Forest Editors. This target date may be extended by the Forests Editors.
15 January 2021	Authors notified of final decisions by the guest editor on proposal acceptance. Note, though, that especially strong proposals will be accepted for publication on a rolling basis.
30 July 2021	Manuscripts submitted to Forests for refereed peer review.
24 September 2021	Initial release date of accepted manuscripts in the online journal.

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