

LTER Intersite Activities: Tree Mortality
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A major objective of the LTER network is to examine the long-term dynamics of key populations such as primary producers. Tree mortality is an area where many LTER sites could compare a process influencing these population dynamics. I propose that the coordinating committee support two activities that would foster intersite comparisons of this process.

1. Workshop on Tree Mortality

This workshop would allow scientists from LTER sites with forests to gather. The objectives would be three-fold:

- A. Encourage sites which are not examining this process to initiate studies.
- B. Discuss methodologies and other technical aspects which would foster comparisons.
- C. Encourage sites which have data on mortality to analyze and publish results in preparation for broader inter-site comparison.

The workshop would probably take three days and be held in Corvallis in 1988. This would be a good site because the Andrews group has excellent data on temporal and spatial variation as well as causes of mortality.

2. ESA Sponsored Symposium

A symposium would be held in 1989, one year after the workshop, to present papers on tree mortality. The proceedings would be published as a book perhaps.

The symposium would be divided into two parts. The first would be 30 min talks on general aspects of tree mortality. Topics would include:

1. Evolutionary aspects
2. Ecosystem Processes (e.g., nutrient cycling)
3. Population dynamics
4. Spatial variability
5. Man-caused effects

The second part would consist of data-rich papers, which would reflect data discussed in the workshop.

A final paper to be published in a high profile journal would compare tree mortality as a process across North America.

A major cost of the symposium, aside from travel, would be to assemble the book. This would probably be a 1/4 time effort for at least one year. Would also need to factor in editorial help if this is to be a high class product.

Suggested Participants: One representative for workshop from
LTER - Andrews, Coweeta, Hubbard Brook, Fairbanks

Non-LTER - Paul Harbcombe, Rice U.
La Selva
Jerry Lang, Univ. of West Virginia
Oak Ridge Nat. Lab.
Norm Christensen, Duke

Symposium

LTER
Non-LTER
Invited Speakers 2-3