

Woody Detritus in the Forest Ecosystems of Russia

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Abstract

In the past assessments of carbon stores in Russian forests, woody detritus was either ignored, estimated as a constant proportion relative to live biomass, or derived from growth tables. In this study we are attempting to rely on visual estimates of dead wood volume made during regular forest inventories. The inventory data are processed using a system of correction factors and dead-to-live wood volume ratios that are derived from measurements in sample plots. These volume estimates are then converted to biomass and carbon stores using decay class-specific densities. Using this approach, the preliminary estimate of woody detritus stores was made for three leskhoses of the St. Petersburg region. The average total mass of woody detritus of intact stands was 6.6 Mg OM/ha, although the range was from 2 to 150 Mg/ha.

K L T E R

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