Plant biomass and nutrient stores in seven small watersheds at the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest: A preliminary report

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

Study Area

- Physical environment
- Small watershed management histories

Methods

Biomass determination Live tree Understory plants Coarse woody debris Fine woody debris Forest floor litter Nutrient content determination Determination of plant substrate proportions for biomass and nutrients

Results

Biomass **Carbon** Nitrogen **Phosphorus** Potassium Calcium Magnesium Manganese

Literature cited

Figures

- Figure 1. Total biomass in seven small watersheds by component
- Figure 2. Total carbon in seven small watersheds by component
- Figure 3. Total Nitrogen in seven small watersheds by component
- Figure 4. Total Phosphorus in seven small watersheds by component
- Figure 5. Total Potassium in seven small watersheds by component
	- Figure 6. Total Calcium in seven small watersheds by component
	- Figure 7. Total Magnesium in seven small watersheds by component
	- Figure 8. Total Manganese in seven small watersheds by component

Tables

- Table 1. Summary of small watershed metric's and history
- Table 1. Percent biomass stored within each component
- Table 2. Percent carbon stored within each component
- Table 3. Percent Nitrogen stored within each component
- Table 4. Percent Phosphorus stored within each component
- Table 5. Percent Potassium stored within each component
- Table 6. Percent Calcium stored within each component
- Table 7. Percent Magnesium stored within each component
- Table 8. Percent Manganese stored within each component
- Appendix 1. Percentage of total nutrients within each plant component by cut type
- Appendix 2. Percent nutrients stored by tissue in live trees by watershed
- Appendix 3. Nutrient stores by watershed and plant component
- Appendix 4. Wet chemistry data and metadata
- Appendix 5. Proportion of biomass in bark and wood for CWD by decay class
- Appendix 6. Tree tissue as a proportion of tree biomass by watershed and species

Introduction

Understanding the long-term dynamics of forest plant biomass and their associated stores of carbon (C), nitrogen (N), and other plant nutrients is critical for predicting their future role in the global C cycle, N cycle, and soil fertility processes. Much research has been performed at the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest (HJA) to document live plant biomass on a stand level (Acker et al. 1998, Acker et al. 2002, Halpern 1988, Halpern 1989, Halpern & Franklin 1990, Halpern & Spies 1995). While stand level data is important, it may not accurately represent a watershed as a whole, and therefore its use is limited when the goal is to scale information to the watershed or landscape level. Small watersheds, on the other hand, are large enough to represent integrated landscape units, yet small enough to directly measure. This ability to scale information to the landscape level will aid in testing and developing new conceptual and simulation models of forest nutrient cycling and will ultimately help to identity the minimum patch size needed to represent the larger ecosystem. Furthermore, one of the central guiding questions of the HJA LTER (long-term ecological research) program is: How does land use affect carbon and nutrient dynamics? New estimates of nutrient stores can be compared across watersheds dominated by young- versus old-growth forests to help understand nutrient dynamics in small watersheds over successional time and between different forest management strategies. Our new estimates of nutrient stores can also be compared to previously measured nutrient stores (Sollins et al. 1980), to help us understand nutrient dynamics in small watersheds under a regime of climate change.

This preliminary report focuses on seven small watersheds at the HJA as part of the LTER5 proposal to understand the current stores and successional dynamics that were measured of C, N, and other nutrients in forest ecosystems of the Pacific Northwest. Small watersheds (i.e., headwater basins with 1st-order channels) represent over 80% of the total area of the HJA.

Ground based inventories of forest plant biomass and nutrient stores represent the most direct way of documenting these components of a forested watershed. The intent of the ground based measurements made for this study was to provide bulk biomass and nutrient data for use in general estimates of long-term stores of plant nutrients within multiple small watersheds. Field measurements focused on the aboveground portion of live and dead plant biomass including trees, shrubs, herbs, logs, snags, stumps, fine woody debris, and forest floor material.

Biomass measurements of each live and dead plant component were performed in pre-existing fixed area plots along transects that captured most of the variation within each of the seven watersheds. Samples of live plant material were collected in each watershed and nutrient content was measured for each component (trees, shrubs, and herbs). Live trees constitute the majority of biomass within a forested watershed and therefore additional nutrient analysis was performed for the dominant species by collecting individual substrate samples (bark, wood, foliage, and new foliage) to more precisely determine nutrient stores within live trees. Forest floor material and fine woody debris samples were collected for nutrient analysis. Previously existing nutrient content data was utilized for logs, snags, and stumps (Harmon and Sexton 1996).

Study Area

Physical environment

The Andrews Forest is situated in the western Cascade Range of Oregon in the 15,800-acre (6400-ha) drainage basin of Lookout Creek, a tributary of Blue River and the McKenzie River. Elevation ranges from 1350 feet (410 m) to 5340 feet (1630 m). Broadly representative of the rugged mountainous landscape of the Pacific Northwest, the Andrews Forest contains excellent examples of the region's conifer forests and associated wildlife and stream ecosystems [\(http://www.fsl.orst.edu/lter/about.cfm?topnav=2\)](http://www.fsl.orst.edu/lter/about.cfm?topnav=2).

The maritime climate has wet, mild winters and dry, cool summers. At the primary meteorological station near headquarters at 1400 feet (430 m) elevation, mean monthly temperature ranges from near 34 degrees F (1 degree C) in January to 64degrees F (18 degrees C) in July. Average annual precipitation varies with elevation from about 91 inches (230 cm) at the base to over 140 inches (355 cm) at upper elevations, falling mainly in November through March. Rain predominates at low elevations; snow is more common at higher elevations. Highest stream flow occurs generally in November through February during warmrain-on-snow events.

Small watershed management histories

Watershed 1 (WS01) was 100% clearcut over a four-year period from the fall of 1962 to the summer or 1966. Skyline yarding was used to remove timber from the entire 237 acres and no roads were constructed in the watershed. Debris burning in October 1966 consumed most of the fine logging debris on the slopes and in the stream channel.

Watershed 2 (WS02) is an uncut control for WS01. The forest represents a mix of old-growth and mature trees.

Watershed 6 (WS06) was 100% clearcut in 1974. Logs in 90% of the watershed were yarded uphill by a high-lead cable system; logs in the remaining 10% were yarded by tractor. Logging residue was broadcast burned in the spring of 1975, and the watershed was planted with Douglas-fir seedlings in the spring of 1976. A road (still present and maintained) was constructed through the watershed.

Watershed 7 (WS07) was shelterwood cut in 1974 with approximately 60% of basal area removed and 30 to 40 trees per acre left as overstory. The watershed was tractor logged above the road and cable logged below the road. In 1975 a broadcast burn was made just below the road. In 1976 the District planted all of WS07. In 1984 the rest of the overstory canopy was removed. In 2001 WS07 was thinned to about 220 trees per acre.

Watershed 8 (WS08) is an uncut control for WS06 and WS07. No significant difference was found among WS06, 07, and 08 pre-treatment basal area. The forest represents a mix of oldgrowth and mature trees.

Watershed 9 (WS09) is an uncut control for WS10. The forest represents a mix of old-growth and mature trees.

Watershed 10 (WS10) was 100% clearcut in 1975. Clearcutting occurred during the spring and summer, and a running skyline system yarded all logs and unmerchantable material >20 cm in diameter or >2.4 meters in length uphill to a single landing. WS10 was not burned.

Stand	Elevation (m)	Slope (%)	Aspect (degrees)	Stand age	Plot Count	History
WS01	460-990	59	286	41	40	Clearcut 1962-1966
						Debris burned 1966
WS02	530-1070	59	289	Mixed	Varies	Uncut control
						>450 years old
						Mixed ages
WS06	880-1010	25	165	30	22	Clearcut 1974
						Burned 1975
						Planted 1976
WS07	910-1020	34	158	30	24	Shelterwood 60% 1974
						Burned 1975
						Planted 1976
						Large trees removed 1984
						Thinned 220 t/ac 2001
WS08	960-1130	26	165	Mixed	22	Uncut control
						33% 450+ years old
						67% <125 years old
WS09	425-700	58	247	Mixed	15	Uncut control
						>250 years old
						Mixed ages
WS10	425-700	58	250	30	20	Clearcut 1975

Table 1. Summary of small watershed metric's and history

Methods

Biomass determination

Live tree biomass

Each of the watersheds in this study contains permanently established circular, fixed area plots (0.1 ha) along transects with multiple tree measurements over time. The most recent date of tree measurement was determined for each watershed and that data was utilized in this study. Total mean biomass per hectare for WS06, 07, 08, and 09 had already been calculated using a program written by Gody Spycher (Howard Bruner, personal communication). For WS01 and WS10 individual tree biomass data was located on the H.J. Andrews internet site [http://www.fsl.orst.edu/lter/data /](http://www.fsl.orst.edu/lter/data%20/) (data codes TP073 and TP041). Tree biomass was then summed within a plot, and then a mean value was determined for the watershed. For WS02 only tree re-measurement data for diameter at breast height was available (TV010). Allometric equations from the Pacific Northwest Plant Biomass Component Library (TP072, Means et al. 1994) were used to determine individual tree biomass from the diameter at breast height measurements. Subsequently, all individual tree biomass values were summed by plot, and then plot values were averaged over the watershed. If a plot had no trees, then it was assigned a value of zero for averaging. In all cases biomass was calculated on a slope-corrected area basis.

Understory plant biomass

Herbs: Percent cover was visually estimated for every herb species rooted in 2 x 2 m permanently staked plots within the 0.1 hectare tree plots (Franklin and Dyrness 1973, Halpern 1987). Some larger herb species also required a DBA (diameter at base) measurement. Total mean biomass per hectare for WS06, 07, 08, and 09 had already been calculated using a program written by Gody Spycher (Howard Bruner, personal communication). For WS01 and WS10 mean biomass by species on a plot was available (Charles Halpern, personal communication and TP041). This data was then summed within a plot and a mean of the plots was determined for the watershed. WS02 had percent cover data available (TP091). Individual plant biomass was then calculated using allometric equations from the Pacific Northwest Plant Biomass Component Library (TP072, Means et al. 1994). This data was then summed within a plot and a mean of the plots was determined for the watershed.

Shrubs: Diameter at base measurements were taken for all shrub species and trees < 5 cm DBH rooted within the same 2 x 2 m plots as the herb measurements (Franklin and Dyrness 1973, Halpern 1987). In addition, either the modal height (the most common height in the plot), or the individual height of a stem were recorded. Total mean biomass per hectare for WS06, 07, 08, and 09 had already been calculated using a program written by Gody Spycher (Howard Bruner, personal communication). For WS01 and WS10 mean biomass by species on a plot was available (Charles Halpern, personal communication, and TP041). This data was then summed within a plot and a mean of the plots was determined for the watershed. WS02 had percent cover data available (TP091). Individual plant biomass was then calculated using allometric equations from the Pacific Northwest Plant Biomass Component Library (TP072, Means et al. 1994). This data was then summed within a plot and a mean of the plots was determined for the watershed.

Coarse woody debris (CWD) biomass

Coarse woody debris is defined as woody detritus with a diameter of 10 cm or greater. For this study CWD was measured using two methods:

Logs: For downed coarse woody debris the line intercept method was used to determine the volume logs within a plot (Harmon and Sexton 1996). At each plot logs were measured along four 25 m long transects in cardinal directions originating from the center of the live tree plots. For each log encountered the species, decay class, and diameter at line intercept were recorded. Biomass was then determined by multiplying the log volume by a species and decay class specific density. If species specific density was not available for a decay class than substitution of a similar species was utilized. The exception to this method was WS02 where field measurements were completed in 1982 by mapping every log in the plot and recording diameter and length, which was then used to determine volume.

Snags and stumps: All standing dead trees (snags) and cut tree stumps were measured in the 0.1 ha permanent tree plots. Species, decay class, diameter, and height were recorded and used to determine volume. Biomass was then determined by multiplying the volume by a species and decay class specific density. If species specific density was not available for a decay class than substitution of a similar species was utilized. The exception to this method was WS02 where field measurements were completed in 1982 by mapping every snag in the plot and recording diameter and height, which was then used to determine volume.

Fine woody debris biomass

For this study fine woody debris (FWD) was defined as any piece of woody material with a diameter at midpoint greater than 0.5 cm but less than 10 cm. The line intercept method was used to determine the volume of FWD within a plot (Harmon and Sexton 1996). At each plot FWD was tallied along four 4 m long transects in cardinal directions originating from the center of the live tree plots. Each FWD piece was categorized into one of two diameter classes (0.5- 2.4 cm or 2.5-9.9 cm). To determine the average density of FWD within a size class, approximately 30 pieces of FWD from each class were collected from WS06, 07, 08, 09, and10. Density was determined by using the diameter, length, and oven dry weight of each piece of FWD. The mean density was then calculated by size class within each watershed. Total biomass was then determined by multiplying the size specific density by the volume for each size class within each watershed. For WS02, where no measurements were made, we used the average of the two comparable control stands (WS08 and 09).

Forest floor litter biomass

For this study, forest floor was defined as organic matter < 0.5 cm diameter down to mineral soil. Using a corer, four samples were collected along one of the FWD 4 m transects at one meter intervals. If the core contained rotten wood this material was separated and weighed individually. All four samples were pooled for each plot and a mass per unit area was determined. A mean biomass per area was then derived from an average of all plots.

Nutrient content determination

Physical sampling

The sampling for nutrients for each category was as follows:

- 1) Forest floor nutrient content was determined from cores collected on each vegetation plot within each watershed. In each plot 4 cores were collected along a transect. Each core sample was then separated into two components: very rotten wood and other material. All samples were then pooled based on component.
- 2) Fine woody debris pieces were collected by size class within each plot to determine average density and total nutrient content.
- 3) Trees were sampled adjacent to vegetation plots. The range of species and sizes were selected to represent the distribution observed in the plots, with sampling using a stratified random design so that sample trees represented a wide diameter range. At least 10 trees of dominant species and 5 trees of subordinate species were sampled. Samples of foliage, twigs, branches, bark, sapwood, and heartwood were taken from each tree. Foliage and branches were taken at multiple heights using clippers where possible and a shotgun when necessary. Bark was removed using a cork cutter or chisel. Wood was sampled using an increment corer.
- 4) Shrubs were sampled in two forms: large shrubs and small shrubs that are usually inventoried with herbs. Both had foliage and woody tissues collected from plants rooted near vegetation sample plots. These samples were taken from a range of species at the site, with the intent of getting a reasonable average. Samples were pooled within a watershed based on shrub size.
- 5) Herbs were sampled similarly to shrubs, with multiple species and life-forms being mixed together to get a reasonable average value across a watershed.
- 6) Logs, snags, and stumps did not have physical samples collected because nutrient data existed for these components from previous studies (e.g., Sollins et al. 1987).

Chemical analysis was performed at Central Analytical Laboratory located on the Oregon State University campus. Carbon and nitrogen content was determined using a Leco CNS-2000 Macro Analyzer. Cations and phosphorus were determined using a Perkin Elmer Optima 3000DV inductively-coupled plasma optical emission spectrometer with a diode array detector.

Determination of plant tissue proportions for biomass and nutrients

Live trees constitute the majority of biomass in forested watersheds at the HJA and their individual tissues store nutrients in different proportions. Therefore, further analysis was performed to provide more detail into the allocation of biomass within the bark, wood, and foliage of live trees to facilitate more accurate determination of overall nutrient stores (appendix 6). Allometric equations from the Pacific Northwest Plant Biomass Component Library (TP072, Means et al. 1994) were used to determine percent of biomass in foliage, bole bark, bole wood, and branches for each species sampled (TP07210) based on diameter at breast height. If allometric equations did not exist for specific tree species, then substitutions were used based on growth form. An average of all hardwoods by age class was used as substitution for *Arbutus menziesii*, *Cornus nuttallii*, *Prunus emarginata*, and *Rhamnus purshiana*. The equation for *Thuja plicata was* used for *Calocedrus decurrens* and *Abies procera* used for *Abies grandis*. For *Taxus brevifolia* an average of all softwoods by age class was utilized. A ratio of bole bark to bole wood was then calculated and used to estimate the ratio of branch bark to branch wood in order to separate these two tissues. Bole and branch bark and wood, respectively, were added together to create total bark and total wood. Nutrient contents were determined for each individual tree tissue (bark, wood, and foliage) and then summed for the total value. When nutrient values were not available for a specific species, then a mean of all values for that nutrient was used.

For logs, snags, and stumps, previously existing data of tissue proportions (bark and wood) based on decay class (Harmon, unpublished) was used for to determine the average percent of bark remaining (appendix 5). If data did not exist for specific species, then substitutions were used based on growth form, similar to the live trees. Nutrient content for bark and wood was determined separately and then summed for the total.

Forest floor samples were separated into litter and rotten wood components. For the portion that was rotten wood nutrient values were used for decay class 5 *Pseudotsuga menziesii*.

Understory plants and fine woody debris pieces were not separated by tissue; nutrient analysis was performed on a whole plant/piece basis.

Results: biomass and nutrient stores

The amount of biomass and nutrients stored in cut versus uncut watersheds is significantly different. For this reason the results from cut and uncut stands are presented separately for biomass and each nutrient component. Furthermore, the total values for logs, snags, and stumps remain separated when presenting the larger pools of biomass and carbon, but have been combined into a coarse woody debris category (CWD) for the presentation of the smaller pools of nutrient contents.

Biomass in control stands

Total biomass was found to be highest in the control stands (WS02, 08, 09) with total biomass values ranging from 790 to 906 Mg/ha. Within these stands live trees dominate the biomass with values ranging from 585 to 654 Mg/ha, or an average of 73% of the total biomass aboveground. Wood is the largest component of the live tree biomass accounting for on average 78% of the total live tree biomass, with bark at 14% and foliage at 7%. The next largest component in these stands is logs with biomass values ranging from 103 to 115 Mg/ha or an average of 12% of the total biomass. Again, wood is the largest component with an average of 91% of the total log biomass across all decay classes and bark makes up 9% of the log biomass. Snags and stumps also make up a sizeable portion of the aboveground biomass in the older stands with values ranging from 42 to 75 Mg/ha or 7% of the total biomass on average. The forest floor comprised 6% of the total biomass with values between 43 and 57 Mg/ha. Fine woody debris stored 8 to 11 Mg/ha or 1% of the total biomass. Understory plants comprised on average only 0.34% of the total biomass with values ranging from 2 to 5 Mg/ha.

Biomass in cut stands

The younger watersheds have less biomass than the associated control watersheds. For example, with a total biomass of 231 Mg/ha, WS10 contains only 29% of the total biomass of WS09. The total biomass values for the cut stands ranged from 130 to 231 Mg/ha. Live trees comprise the majority of the biomass with an average 53% of the total. As in the uncut stands, logs are the next largest component of total biomass except in WS06 and WS10, where the forest floor had slightly more biomass than the logs. When logs, snags, and stumps are combined coarse woody debris is the next largest component for these stands with values ranging from 32 to 84 Mg/ha, or an average 24% of the total biomass. When compared with the control stands, the managed stands had a larger proportion of forest floor material ranging from 9 to 18 Mg/ha or 15% of the total. Biomass values for fine woody debris ranged from 3 to 7 Mg/ha, representing an average 4% of the total. Similarly, herbs and shrubs had biomass values ranging from 2 to 7 Mg/ha or 4% of the total on average.

Figure 1. Total biomass in seven small watersheds by component

Table 2. Percent aboveground biomass stored within each component

Carbon stores in control stands

Total carbon was highest in the un-cut control stands with total values ranging from 385 to 439 Mg/ha. Carbon stores closely follow the pattern of biomass stores with live trees containing the majority of carbon, an average 73% of the total, with values ranging from 287 to 319 Mg/ha. The next largest pool of carbon stored is in logs with totals ranging from 51 to 58 Mg/ha, or an average 13% of the total carbon. Snags and stumps store between 22 to 36 Mg/ha of carbon, an average 7% of the total. Forest floor material is the next largest pool with values ranging from 17 to 25 Mg/ha, or 5% of the total on average. Fine woody debris stored an average 1% and understory plants 0.3% of total carbon.

Carbon stores in cut stands

Just as in biomass, the cut stands have less carbon stored than the older control stands. Live trees constitute the majority of carbon with values ranging from 26 to 76 Mg/ha, an average of only 55% of the total carbon as compared to 73% for the un-cut stands. Logs comprise the next largest pool of carbon with values ranging between 14 and 36 Mg/ha, or 20% of the total on average. Forest floor material contains the third largest store of carbon with values ranging from 9 to 15 Mg/ha, an average of 13% of the total. Snags and stumps store approximately 4% of the total carbon with values between 2 and 8 Mg/ha. Understory plants and fine woody debris each comprise 4% of the total carbon with understory values ranging from 2 to 4 Mg/ha and fine woody debris from 3 to 4 Mg/ha.

Figure 2. Carbon stores in seven small watersheds by component

Table 3. Percent carbon stored within each component

Nitrogen stores in control stands

As expected, given their higher biomass, the control stands had higher nitrogen values than the associated cut stands. Total nitrogen values for ranged from 982 to 1336 Kg/ha. Due to their dominant biomass, live trees contained the most nitrogen with values ranging from 356 to 561 Kg/ha, comprising an average 37% of the total nitrogen. However, the forest floor while comprising an average of only 15% of the total biomass, contained the next highest store of nitrogen with values ranging from 332 to 495 Kg/ha or an average of 36% of the total nitrogen. CWD contained a sizable portion of the nitrogen with values ranging from 210 to 324 Kg/ha or an average 21% of the total. Understory plants stored between 19 to 64 Mg/ha or an average of 4% of the total nitrogen. Fine woody debris contained between 18 and 40 Kg/ha of nitrogen or an average of 2% of the total.

Nitrogen stores in cut stands

While comprising an average 15% of the total biomass in the cut stands, the forest floor contained 230 to 306 Kg/ha or 45% of the total nitrogen, over twice the amount found in live trees which contained 60 to 181 Kg/ha or an average 21% to the total nitrogen. Also, while making up only 4% of the total biomass, the understory in cut stands contained 50 to 118 Kg/ha or on average 16% of the total nitrogen. CWD contained the next highest amount of nitrogen with values ranging from 50 to 121 Kg/ha or an average 13% of the total. Fine woody debris contained 17 to 42 Kg/ha or an average 5% of the total.

Figure 3. Nitrogen stores in seven small watersheds by component

Table 4. Percent nitrogen stored within each component

STAND	Live Tree	Understory	Snag/Stump	FWD	Logs	Forest Floor
WS01	22.13	17.95	2.35	4.34	16.12	37.12
WS06	21.79	8.35	0.65	5.34	11.80	52.07
WS07	12.10	23.24	0.70	8.42	9.45	46.09
WS10	27.59	13.03	2.81	2.57	9.66	44.34
WS02	41.98	1.46	5.96	2.18	11.71	36.71
WS08	32.91	1.66	5.93	3.05	18.76	37.69
WS09	36.32	6.51	4.81	1.86	16.63	33.87
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Phosphorus stores in control stands

Total phosphorus stored in the control stands ranged from 102 to 159 Kg/ha. While live trees constitute 73% of the total biomass in control stands, they store on average only 60% of the total phosphorus with values ranging from 55 to 96 Kg/ha. Conversely, the forest floor contains only 6% of the total biomass, yet contains on average 25% of the total phosphorus with values between 26 and 45 Kg/ha. CWD constitutes the next largest pool of phosphorus with values ranging from 9 to 16 Kg/ha, or 9% of the total on average. Understory plants store only 0.34% of the total biomass, yet represent on average 5% of the total phosphorus stored with values ranging from 3 to 10 Kg/ha. Fine woody debris contained 1.1 to 1.7 Kg/ha, or an average of only 1% of the total phosphorus.

Phosphorus stores in cut stands

Total phosphorus stored in cut stands ranged in value from 49 to 79 Kg/ha. Similar to the control stands, live trees dominated at 53% of the total biomass, yet they stored on average only 40% of the total phosphorus with values between 12 to 39 Kg/ha. The forest floor contained the next most significant store of phosphorus with values ranging from 13 to 21 Kg/ha, or an average 28% of the total. Unlike the control stands, however, understory plants store almost as much phosphorus as the forest floor with values ranging from 7 to 21 Kg/ha, which translates to almost 25% of the total. Of the remaining 7%, CWD contained an average 6% of the total phosphorus with values between 2 and 5 Kg/ha. Fine woody debris stored an average 1% of the total with values between 0.6 and 2 Kg/ha.

Figure 4. Phosphorous stores in seven small watersheds by component

Table 5. Percent Phosphorus stored within each component

Potassium stores in control stands

Total potassium stored in control stands ranged from 327 to 535 Kg/ha. Following the pattern of biomass, live trees contained the largest portion, with values between 221 and 444 Kg/ha, or an average of 77% of the total potassium. Unlike biomass, however, the next largest store of potassium was contained in the understory plants with values ranging from 22 to 56 Kg/ha, or 9% of the total on average. CWD stored an average 7% of the total potassium with values between 23 and 34 Kg/ha. Forest floor material contained 6% of the total, with values between 21 and 35 Kg/ha. Fine woody debris contained 2 to 3 Kg/ha, or slightly less than 1% of the total potassium.

Potassium stores in cut stands

Total potassium stored in cut stands ranged from 175 to 314 Kg/ha. Similar to the control stands, the vast majority of potassium in cut stands was stored in the live plants. Live trees contained on average 45% of the total with values between 54 and 175 Kg/ha. Understory plants, contained only 4% of the total biomass, yet stored almost as much potassium as the trees with values ranging from 50 to 123 Kg/ha or 41% of the total. Forest floor material was the next largest pool with an average of 8% of the total potassium, and values ranging from 16 to 23 Kg/ha. CWD stored between 5 and 13 Kg/ha or 4% of the total on average. Fine woody debris stored between 2 to 11 Kg/ha, an average 2% of the total.

Figure 5. Potassium stores in seven small watersheds by component

Table 6. Percent Potassium stored within each component

STAND	Live Tree	Understory	Snag/Stump	FWD	Loas	Forest Floor
WS01	43.25	44 24	0.67	1.53	4.05	6.26
WS06	56.12	28.52	0.30	1 1 1	-3.51	10.45

Calcium stores in control stands

Total calcium values in control stands ranged from 1189 to 1739 Kg/ha. Live trees stored the most calcium with an average 52% of the total and values between 550 and 1000 Kg/ha. Unlike the trend in biomass, with forest floor material comprising only 6% of the total, it was found to contain an average 24% of the total calcium with values ranging from 270 to 442 Kg/ha. CWD stored between 201 and 288 Kg/ha or 18% of the total calcium on average. Fine woody debris and understory plants both contained an average 3% of the total calcium with values ranging from 42 to 47 Kg/ha and 16 to 71 Kg/ha respectively.

Calcium stores in cut stands

Total calcium values in cut stands ranged from 360 to 773 Kg/ha. While comprising on average only 15% of the total biomass, the forest floor contained the largest pool with 38% of the total calcium on average and values ranging from 142 to 263 Kg/ha, which is very close to the percent found in live trees with values between 66 and 343 Kg/ha or 32% of the total. Understory plants contained the next largest pool with values ranging from 37 to 114 Kg/ha or an average 14% of the total calcium. CWD stored an average 13% of the total calcium with values between 47 and 112 Kg/ha. Fine woody debris contained between 18 and 22 Kg/ha, or an average 4% of the total calcium.

Figure 6. Calcium stores in seven small watersheds by component

Table 7. Percent Calcium stored within each component

Magnesium stores in control stands

Total magnesium stored in control stands ranged from 118 to 143 Kg/ha. Live trees dominate this pool, storing an average 46% of the total with values between 49 and 75 Kg/ha. Forest floor material stored a large portion of the magnesium with values ranging from 21 to 38 Kg/ha, or an average of 24% of the total. CWD contained almost as much as the forest floor with an average 23% of the total and values between 23 and 38 Kg/ha. Understory plants stored between 3 to 15 Kg/ha, or an average 6% of the total magnesium. FWD contained only 1% of the total with values between 1 and 2 Kg/ha.

Magnesium stores in cut stands

Total magnesium stored in cut stands ranged from 48 to 87 Kg/ha. Unlike the control stands, forest floor material stored the most magnesium with values ranging from 15 to 25 Kg/ha or 32% of the total on average. Live trees and understory plants each stored 25% of the total magnesium on average with values between 7 to 30 Kg/ha and 8 to 22 Kg/ha respectively. CWD contained an average 14% of the total magnesium with values ranging from 5 to 14 Kg/ha. Similar to the control stands, FWD stored only 4% of the total with values between 2 and 3 Kg/ha.

Figure 7. Magnesium stores in seven small watersheds by component

Table 8. Percent Magnesium stored within each component

Manganese stores in control stands

Total manganese stored in control stands ranged from 64 to 83 Kg/ha. The vast majority of manganese was contained in the forest floor material with values between 27 to 50 Kg/ha, or an average 51% of the total. CWD stored the next largest amount at 24% of the total with values ranging from 15 to 18 Kg/ha. Live trees stored nearly as much as CWD with values between 13 and 17 Kg/ha, or an average 23% of the total manganese. Understory plants and FWD both stored on average only 1% of the total with values ranging from 0.2 to 1 Kg/ha and 0.4 to 0.5 Kg/ha respectively.

Manganese stores in cut stands

Total manganese stored in cut stands ranged from 15 to 31 Kg/ha. Similar to the control stands, forest floor material contained the majority of manganese at 56% of the total with values between 8 and 20 Kg/ha. CWD values ranged from 3 to 10 Kg/ha, or an average 20% of the total manganese. Live trees comprised 18% of the total on average with values ranging from 2 to 6 Kg/ha. The understory plants contained 5% of the total manganese on average with values between 0.5 and 1.6 Kg/ha. FWD stored 0.2 to 0.4 Kg/ha, and average 1% of the total manganese.

Figure 8. Manganese stores in seven small watersheds by component

Table 9. Percent Manganese stored within each component

Discussion

This preliminary report provides bulk biomass and nutrient store data for aboveground live and dead plant material within different watersheds at the HJA. This data is intended as a resource and can be used for analysis in multiple ways. We compared biomass and nutrient stores amongst cut watersheds, amongst uncut watersheds, and between cut and uncut watersheds. Furthermore, we also compared and contrasted biomass and nutrient pools amongst components within one watershed.

Different components store different fractions of biomass and nutrients depending on the element being considered. While biomass and carbon content are proportional to each other (e.g. biomass is composed of approximately 50% carbon), this is not the case for the other

elements examined. Foliage and leaf litter store a large portion of the nitrogen pool within watersheds, so while live trees comprise 53 to 73% of the total biomass, they store only 21 to 37% of the total nitrogen because foliage comprises only 4 to 9% of the biomass of an individual tree on average. Within the cut watersheds, where the live trees are smaller than in the uncut watersheds, the forest floor material contained the largest pool of nitrogen, due to the fact that it is composed mostly of fallen foliage. Another example of components storing differing nutrient fractions is potassium. It is interesting to note that in both the cut and uncut watersheds, live plants (trees and understory) stored 86% of the total potassium even though combined they comprise 57 to 73% of the total biomass in the watersheds.

The proportions of nutrients differed within components based on stand age. The understory plants within the younger cut watersheds stored between 25 to 41% of the total phosphorus, total potassium, and total magnesium in those stands. In the older uncut watersheds, where less light reaches the understory layer, this component only stores 5 to 9% of the total pools for phosphorus, potassium, and magnesium within these stands. The proportion of nutrients stored within the CWD component also varied with stand age, for example in the younger cut stands this component stored an average 14% of the total magnesium whereas in the older uncut stands the amount of total magnesium stored in CWD was 23% of the total, almost a two-fold increase from the younger watersheds.

While WS09 is in the category of uncut watersheds, it tended to be lower than WS08 and WS02 for total biomass and many nutrient stores. It may be that WS09 had a higher percentage of plots that contained mature forest as opposed to old-growth, and therefore it is more representative of a mature forested watershed, which would be intermediate between young growth and old-growth. This supposition is supported by some of the biomass measurements, for example the percent of total biomass in understory plants for WS02 and WS08 was 0.22, but WS09 contained 0.58%.

WS10 had significantly higher biomass and nutrient store values than WS06 and WS07, even though WS10 was clearcut a year later the other two watersheds. WS10 also had biomass and nutrient stores very similar to or even higher than WS01, despite being a decade younger. Perhaps the lack of fire after clearcutting in WS10 facilitated faster tree growth due to more nutrient availability from the intact forest floor and other fine woody material. The total biomass and nutrient stores for WS07 are lower than the other cut stands, but shelterwood harvest may have slowed down growth of trees and trees were also cut during a thinning operation in 2001, however, most of that biomass remained at the time of the inventory of that watershed.

Future efforts to complete the inventory of biomass and nutrient stores in these watersheds should include soil and belowground biomass components. Adding these would help to more accurately model the nutrient cycling within watersheds at the HJA. Furthermore, future analysis should separate mature forest plots from old-growth forest plots within the uncut watersheds to shed light on the differences between mature and old-growth forests in terms of total biomass and nutrient stores. This data set can also be used to compare and contrast with the biomass data collected from the Early Succession Synthesis Area stands as well as the reference stands to create a more complete picture of biomass and nutrient stores within watersheds at the HJA.

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Appendix 1. Percentage of total nutrients within each plant component by cut type

Appendix 2. Percent nutrients stored by tissue in live trees by watershed

Appendix 3. Nutrient stores by watershed and plant component

Table 11. Nutrient stores in live trees within seven small watersheds at the HJA

STAN	N	err	Ρ	err	Κ	err	CA	err c	MG	err m	MN	err m
D		n		p		k		а		g		n
WS01	145.6		30.9		120.7		215.66		19.0		5.78	
	9		8		O				9			
WS06	128.2		22.8		98.00		164.83		14.2		5.53	
	8		3						0			
WS07	60.33		12.6		54.00		66.50		6.89		1.97	
			0									
WS10	181.5		39.3		175.6		343.08		30.1		6.41	
	8		2									
WS02	561.2		96.4		444.3		1000.6		75.8		13.9	
			3				4		5		0	
WS08	432.3		90.2		318.3		682.23		53.6		17.1	
	5		9						6		0	
WS09	356.4		54.7		221.0		550.40		49.2		16.0	
	8		6		6				8		8	

Table 12. Nutrient stores in understory plants within seven small watersheds at the HJA

WS06	3.84	0.43	0.16	0.02	0.53	0.05	4.21	0.42	0.39	0.05	0.35	0.04	
WS07	3.47	0.38	0.14	0.02	0.50	0.05	3.97	0.42	0.36	0.04	0.36	0.04	
WS10	18.49	2.18	0.78	0.09	2.51	0.30	19.78	2.37	2.10	0.26	2.22	0.34	
WS02	79.71	12.80	4.36	1.12	12.33	2.22	89.92	15.28	8.47	1.39	7.42	1.40	
WS08	77.84	14.96	3.43	0.63	10.99	2.23	87.46	19.60	8.06	1.43	6.81	1.40	
WS09	47.26	11.19	2.01	0.46	6.29	1.58	51.13	12.64	5.08	1.21	4.53	1.41	

Table 14. Nutrient stores in fine woody debris within seven small watersheds at the HJA

STAND	N	err n	P	err p	Κ	err k	СA	err ca	МG	err mg	ΜN	err mn
WS01	28.55	2.10	0.71	0.05	4.28	0.32	19.99	1.47	2.14	0.16	0.29	0.02
WS06	31.45	4.36	0.64	0.09	1.93	0.27	20.54	2.85	1.93	0.27	0.21	0.03
WS07	42.00	3.01	1.95	0.14	11.72	0.84	22.46	1.61	2.93	0.21	0.43	0.03
WS10	16.94	1.62	0.64	0.06	1.92	0.18	17.90	1.71	1.92	0.18	0.29	0.03
WS02	29.17		1.40		2.37		44.81		1.95		0.46	
WS08	40.13	2.60	1.10	0.07	2.20	0.14	47.28	3.06	2.20	0.14	0.52	0.03
WS09	18.21	2.34	1.69	0.22	2.54	0.33	42.34	5.43	1.69	0.22	0.40	0.05

Table 15. Nutrient stores in logs within seven small watersheds at the HJA

STAND	N	err n	P	err p	Κ	err k	CA	err ca	МG	err mg	МN	err mn
WS01	106.15	12.78	4.82	0.58	11.30	1.48	97.23	12.44	12.13	1.47	8.46	1.32
WS06	69.43	11.09	3.52	0.58	6.13	0.97	55.54	8.77	8.51	1.40	3.02	0.55
WS07	47.13	7.88	2.23	0.40	5.10	0.87	43.04	6.98	5.10	0.91	2.58	0.46
WS10	63.58	13.71	3.23	0.70	5.47	1.24	49.53	10.99	7.84	1.75	2.83	0.95
WS02	156.56	19.22	8.08	1.10	18.21	2.53	142.38	18.58	18.52	2.31	10.97	1.86
WS08	246.48	26.18	12.75	1.49	23.53	2.09	200.64	19.20	30.04	3.62	9.63	1.05
WS09	163.26	29.89	7.57	1.36	17.45	3.65	150.22	30.44	18.56	3.37	10.69	2.58

Table 16. Nutrient stores in the forest floor within seven small watersheds at the HJA

Metadata for wet chemistry

Appendix 5. Proportion of biomass in bark and wood for CWD by decay class

Appendix 6. Tree tissue as a proportion of tree biomass by watershed and species

