Ellen Macdonald is a Professor of Forest Ecology and Chair of the Department of Renewable Resources at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. She teaches Forest Ecology and has taught Restoration Ecology, Environmental Assessment, Field School, and graduate-level statistics, among other subjects. For the past 30 years her research has focused on the ecology of northern forests - particularly forest regeneration, stand dynamics, understory plant communities and relationships among these. She has endeavored to learn from forest responses to natural disturbance and apply these to improved management and restoration of forests. She has published over 150 refereed journal articles and supervised 41 MSc and 15 PhD students to completion. As an applied researcher she greatly values productive partnerships with industry and government partners, which help ensure that research results are applied to practice and policy. She has been recognized for research excellence by receiving Scientific Achievement Awards from both the Canadian Institute of Forestry (in 2014) and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (in 2019). She was the 2019 recipient of the *University Cup,* the University of Alberta's highest honour for excellence in research, teaching, and service*.*