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David Chan* (dmchan@vcu.edu), 1015 Floyd Avenue, Richmond, VA 23284, and **Ben Ramage**, **Matthew Mills** and **John Atwood**. *The interaction of disturbances and conspecific inhibition and their effect on biodiversity in forests*. Preliminary report.

Two critical drivers of forest diversity are disturbance and conspecific inhibition. Disturbances are discrete events that kill or remove biomass such as hurricanes, fires, and timber harvest. Conspecific inhibition is defined as a reduction in performance when same species densities are high. While the importance of both of these phenomena has been recognized, they have rarely been considered simultaneously. There is evidence that suggests disturbance likely alters the strength of conspecific inhibition, and that complex interactions between disturbance and conspecific inhibition may drive diversity. Here we present simulation results of these interactions and show their effect on species diversity. (Received September 05, 2018)