



## NRES WEEKLY NEWS

February 25 - 29, 2008

A newsletter for faculty, staff and students  
who participate in the  
Natural Resources & Environmental Studies Institute  
and NRES Graduate Programs

### COMING EVENTS

### NRESI RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

**Dr. David Hik, Professor  
University of Alberta**



#### **Herbivores in warming subarctic alpine environments**

Of the four circumpolar sub-regions defined in the 2004 *Arctic Climate Impact Assessment*, "Alaska and the Canadian Yukon have experienced the most dramatic warming, resulting in major ecological impacts." I will discuss how the life history and behaviour of alpine dwelling mammalian herbivores in the southwest Yukon (collared pikas, hoary marmots, arctic ground squirrels, Dall sheep) may affect their response to highly variable weather conditions, continued warming, and large-scale climate periodicity. Habitat connectivity is also of central importance in population dynamics, and the mobility of animals represents a challenge in terms of predicting immediate responses to climate-driven habitat changes. With continued climate change, lower elevation forest and shrub communities are expected to move upslope as milder conditions allow them to occupy areas that were previously too extreme. These advances will fragment and reduce alpine tundra habitat, and may restrict dispersal for some species. A set of future scenarios will provide an opportunity to make predictions about how reproductive success and population dynamics of these mammalian herbivores may be affected by continued climate change in northern mountain environments.

**Friday, February 29, 2008**

**3:30 - 4:30 pm**

**Lecture Theatre 7-150**

*Light Refreshments will be Served*

#### **REMINDER FOR FACULTY**

Please note the time change for the  
NRES Grad Program Meeting:

Thursday, February 28, 2008  
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
6-305 - Conference Centre

#### **TRAVEL**

**Gail Fondahl** is attending an Arctic Social Indicators (ASI) development workshop in Copenhagen from Feb 27 - March 1. The ASI project is an IPY project under the aegis of the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group.

**Kathy Parker** will be at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks from February 26 through March 2 to participate in graduate student committee meetings and work with Drs. P. Barboza and I. Hume on an Integrated Wildlife Nutrition textbook.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2008

**3rd Annual NRESI Poster Presentation and Lecture**  
**Thursday, February 28, 2007**

**Poster Presentation**

**5:30 pm - Atrium Administration Building**

featuring research by NRES graduate students and NRES Institute members. This year there will be prizes for the best posters, so please sign up with Elissa or Brenda if you will be presenting a poster.

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**PUBLIC LECTURE**

**7:00 pm - Canfor Theatre 6-213**

**Dr. David Hik**

**Professor, University of Alberta**

**Executive Director, Canadian International Polar Year Secretariat**

***“International Polar Year and the future of Arctic research in Canada”***

The Arctic regions, including northern Canada, are facing unprecedented social, political, economic, environmental, and cultural changes. Scientific and government reports and committees have routinely recognized and commented on these challenges and the need for cooperative and collaborative interdisciplinary solutions based on sound knowledge. The International Polar Year (IPY) of 2007-2008 is a grand effort focusing the attention of the world on the state of the polar regions, the impacts of rapid climate change, and the connections between the poles and the rest of the planet. Over 50,000 participants from 63 nations are collaborating in some 200 interdisciplinary research programs, and in this sense, IPY has already succeeded. IPY has fostered international cooperation at a higher level and across a much wider range of polar science than at any previous time. Now, many efforts are underway to harness the momentum and resources of IPY to ensure that its impact is substantive and long lasting. The legacies of IPY include new and enhanced observation networks and research facilities, an unprecedented degree of access to data and information about the polar regions, a new generation of polar scientists, and the engagement of residents of the polar regions, the public and policy makers worldwide. I will provide an overview of some IPY research and outreach activities, as well as some of the efforts to secure a lasting legacy.

**REMINDER:** Share your information about recent publications, grants, and/or other honours you may have received with others interested in NRES issues.

**PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO ELISSA ZEMLAK: [zemplak@unbc.ca](mailto:zemplak@unbc.ca)**