



NRES WEEKLY NEWS

February 4 - 8, 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. Don Faber-Langendoen
Senior Ecologist, Conservation Service Division
NatureServe

Tomorrow

Assessing the Ecological Integrity of Ecosystems Using a Dynamic Reference Set

Ecological integrity may be defined as:

“ . . . an assessment of the structure, composition, and function of an ecosystem as compared to reference or benchmark ecosystems operating within the bounds of natural or historic disturbance regimes.”

Thus, ecological integrity assessments provide an assessment of the likelihood that, if current conditions prevail, an occurrence of an ecosystem will retain its level of structure, composition and function.

For over twenty-five years, NatureServe has advanced approaches for documenting the viability and integrity of individual occurrences of species and ecosystems. Earlier methods relied on fairly qualitative, expert-driven protocols. More recently, the NatureServe ecology methodology has been revised to better reflect an indicator-based approach, one that emphasizes specific indicators to assess the ecological integrity of aquatic, wetland, and terrestrial ecosystems. We introduce the current purposes of the methodology, provide an overview and examples, and suggest plans for its implementation in collaboration with our Network of state and provincial Natural Heritage Programs and federal partners.

Friday, February 1, 2008

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Lecture Theatre 7-150

Light Refreshments will be Served

Dr. Ted Binnema

Associate Professor, History Program, UNBC

Next Friday

Using Historical Documents to Reconstruct Environmental Change in Northern British Columbia

Friday, February 8, 2008

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Lecture Theatre 7-150

Light Refreshments will be Served

COMING EVENTS

GLOBAL FRIDAYS

February 1
Room 6-306
12:00 - 1:30 pm

Art Fredeen
Ecosystem Science & Management Program, UNBC

“Forests, Forest Management and Global Climate Change”

February 8
Room 6-306
12:00 - 1:30 pm

Makere Stewart-Harawira
Associate Prof., Dept. of Educational Policy Studies, Univ. of Alberta

“Singing the World: Indigenous Challenges and Political Ontologies in a Deeply Bifurcated World”

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

The **Poster Presentation**, starting at **5:30** in the Admin Building Atrium, will feature research by NRES graduate students and NRES Institute members.

7:00 pm
Canfor Theatre 6-213

Dr. David Hik, Executive Director of the Canadian International Polar Year Secretariat
“International Polar Year and the future of Arctic research in Canada”

OF INTEREST

On January 25, 2008, the Government of British Columbia announced that it will be seeking to create a \$94.5 million Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions. The Institute will involve BC's four research-intensive universities in addressing and mitigating the effects of climate change. Several UNBC faculty expect to fully participate in the new Institute.

UNBC hosted the Forest Health Review Committee, an ad hoc advisory group to Jim Snetsinger, the Chief Forester of the BC Ministry of Forests and Range, on Wednesday, January 30. **Staffan Lindgren** welcomed the 30+ participants, which included forest health specialists from throughout British Columbia, and presented a short overview of forest health-related research at UNBC. Tim Ebata, BC MoFR reported that the mountain pine beetle outbreak now covers over 10 million hectares of forest in BC, and noted that data from 2007 is now available on the ministry web site. The summary report on forest health should be available by the end of March.

TRAVEL

Roger Wheate is traveling to Zurich for a “GlobGlacier” workshop meeting, February 4-5, as the representative for the Western Canadian Cryospheric Network. GlobGlacier is funded by the European Space Agency to promote worldwide glacier inventories and methods.

We're on the web at
www.unbc.ca/nres/newsletter

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