



NRES WEEKLY NEWS

March 23, 2007

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

NRESI RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Dr. K. David Coates

Research Silviculturist
BC Forest Service - Smithers, BC



Silviculture & the Mountain Pine Beetle: What to Do?

The magnitude and extent of the current mountain pine beetle outbreak in BC requires thoughtful planning to recover value from the impacted timber while maintaining other values and reducing impacts to mid-term (15-50 years from now) timber supplies. Historically, clearcutting followed by prompt planting has been the dominant management practice in lodgepole pine stand types. Total salvage followed by planting will not help communities faced with mid-term timber supply shortages.

In a study undertaken for the Chief Forester of BC, we found that pine-leading stand types across north central BC have considerable variability in secondary structure. Approximately 20-30% of the pine-leading landbase had sufficient secondary structure today to reasonably expect a mid-term harvest opportunity if simply left unsalvaged. A further 40-50% of pine-leading stands had well-stocked coniferous understories that could reduce rotations by 10-30 years compared to complete salvage and planting. Only 20-25% of pine-leading stands in north central BC had poor secondary structure. These stands are prime candidates for total salvage and planting.

There appears to be considerable potential to reduce the impact to mid-term timber supply and enhance biodiversity values, hydrologic recovery, visual quality and wildlife habitat by strategically protecting certain pine-leading stand types from immediate harvest and/or protecting secondary structure during salvage operations.

Friday, March 23, 2007
3:30 pm — 4:30 pm
Lecture Theatre 7-150

Light Refreshments served at 3:20 pm

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: zemlak@unbc.ca

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

UPCOMING EVENT

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Lecture - 7:00 pm

Canfor Theatre Room 6-213

Mark your calendars for the NRESI Annual Lecture and Poster Presentation. The poster session will feature research by NRES graduate students and NRES Institute members. Following the poster presentation, Dr. Terry Chapin (University of Alaska Fairbanks) will deliver his talk

*"Managing for Sustainability in a Directionally Changing World:
Climate Change in Interior Alaska".*

If you or your students are planning to provide a poster to showcase activities in NRES, a sign up sheet is at Paula Poirier's desk, 3rd floor New Lab Building.

GOOD BYE

- Next week will be the final week at UNBC for Dr. Niklas Björklund, post-doctoral fellow in Staffan Lindgren's lab. On March 29, Niklas will head back to Sweden with his family. We wish Niklas, Kicki, Lova and Ima (the true blue Canadian member of the Björklunds) all the best.

TRAVEL

- Oscar Garcia traveled on January 30 to Albacete, Spain, for the next leg of his sabbatical, as Visiting Professor at the University of Castile-La Mancha, Department of Agroforestry Science and Technology.

NEWS from NRES GRADS

Karl and **Inge-Jean Mattson** have won the adventure category in the Waterwalker Film Festival and have been chosen to be on the North American wide tour of the best of the festival (see the website, www.paddlingcanada.com/waterwalker). They won for their film, "*Sweetwater to Saltwater: an expedition to the arctic by canoe*" which documents their 3750km, 81 day expedition from their backdoor on the Rolla Creek in northeastern BC, to Tuktoyaktuk, NWT on the arctic ocean (they followed the runoff from their backyard to the ocean) in the summer of 2005. Congratulations Inge-Jean and Karl!

With funding from the BQCMB (Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board) **Inge-Jean Mattson** is traveling to Yellowknife and Lutsel K'e in the NWT to visit the Lutsel K'e Dene, Yellowknives Dene and North Slave Metis Alliance to present the work done on her first year of studies on caribou and wolf distribution and abundance over the Bathurst Caribou herd's winter range. The BQCMB has given Inge-Jean the opportunity to continue communication with the communities that helped make her project possible. Inge-Jean Mattson is a grad student of Chris Johnson.