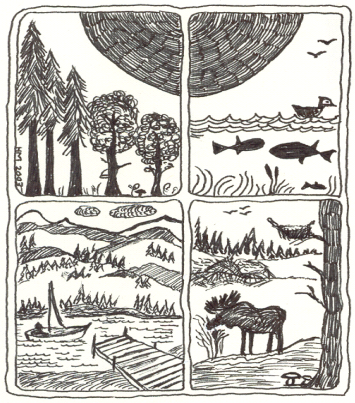

NRES WEEKLY NEWS
Oct. 11 - 15, 2010

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

Next Friday

Dr. Craig Farnden
UBC Faculty of Forestry

Seeing the forest beyond the trees: do BC's reforestation standards contribute to SFM?

A key element of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) that is poorly understood is the concept of the desired future forest condition. This is the standard against which forest management success should be judged, and the primary measure by which we can assess the ability of future generations to benefit from forest-based goods and services.

By far the largest influence we have on future forest conditions revolves around harvest and reforestation decisions. These activities occur within a very short time period relative to the typical life span of a forest stand, suggesting that we have limited opportunities to "get-it-right". Once trees are established and growing there are very few reasonable opportunities for corrective actions. The rationales we use to plan reforestation activities and the standards by which we assess performance are thus critical elements of SFM planning

Regeneration stocking surveys are almost universally conducted on logged areas in Canada, much of the United States and many other jurisdictions throughout the world. Historically on public lands, the results have been primarily used to assess achievement of statutory or contractual reforestation requirements. Despite the huge collective costs and implications for future generations, standards against which performance is assessed have been poorly linked to forest management objectives for most of the past century. The reasons for this shortcoming will be explored, and some solutions suggested.

October 15, 2010 **3:30 - 4:30 pm** **Lecture Theatre 7-150**

James Gray-Donald
Associate VP Sustainability Leader, Sears Canada

Leadership for Change: Sears commits to becoming carbon neutral

Climate change poses a serious threat to the environment and human populations across the globe and is a serious business risk. As a large multi-channel retailer, Sears is committed to reducing its own carbon footprint, giving a preference to suppliers who do the same and educating the public to make better, climate-friendly choices. Life Cycle Assessments provide a useful approach to understanding the full impacts of our business. For example, for retailers such as Wal-Mart, Marks & Spencer, Canadian Tire and Sears, there are indications that only 10% of their carbon footprint is generated by internal operations. In the case of Sears Canada, most of our internal carbon footprint is generated from diesel for the SLH fleet, electricity, heating and cooling for stores and NLCs, and gasoline for the corporate fleet. The other 90% of the carbon footprint comes from the supply chain. This includes resource extraction, manufacturing, packaging, transportation, etc.

October 22, 2010 **3:30 - 4:30 pm** **Lecture Theatre 7-150**

For Elluminate information and link to the webcast: http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html
For a list of upcoming seminars: http://www.unbc.ca/nres/seminar/

OTHER COMING EVENTS

GLOBAL FRIDAYS
SENATE CHAMBERS
12:00 - 1:30 pm

October 8, 2010

Jose Pablo Baraybar, Executive Director and founding member of the Peruvian Team of Forensic Anthropology (EPAF), President of the Latin American Association of Forensic Anthropology

"From Bones to People: Identifying the Disappeared in Peru

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UNBC will be receiving each seminar in high definition video in the Access Grid collaboration node room in Admin 2024.

2010 COAST to COAST Canadian Seminar Series:
The Marine Environment and Climate Change: Problems and Possible Solutions

October 19 — 11:30-12:20
Anthropogenic Influence on Long Return Period Daily Temperature Extremes at Regional Scales
Francis Zwiers, University of Victoria, Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium

There is now a well established approach to detecting and attributing the causes of observed changes in mean climatic conditions that has been applied progressively from global scales to regional scales to temperature and other climate variables. While this research has provided a great deal of useful information about the causes of climate change observed during the past century or more, policy makers and others have also been demanding answers about whether there are attributable changes in frequency and/or intensity of extreme weather and climate events. The statistical techniques required to respond to these questions are only now being developed. This talk will describe a standard technique that is used in climate change detection and attribution research, propose a parallel approach that might be used to assess whether there is detectable human influence in the far tails of the distribution of a climate variable such as daily maximum air temperature, demonstrate an initial application of the approach, and discuss limitations and further areas of improvements. Using the approach that is proposed, we show that an anthropogenic influence is detectable globally, and in many regions, in the extremes of daily maximum and minimum temperatures. Globally, waiting times for extreme annual minimum daily minimum and daily maximum temperatures events that were expected to recur once every 20 years in the 1960s are now estimated to exceed 35 and 30 years respectively. In contrast, waiting times for circa 1960s 20-year extremes of annual maximum daily minimum and daily maximum temperatures are estimated to have decreased to less than 10 and 15 years respectively.

http://c2c.irmacs.sfu.ca/

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GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

Ms. Leona Shaw is a candidate for the degree:

Master of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies

Ms. Shaw will be defending her thesis entitled:

"The Ecology of Food and Medicine Plant Gathering Sites as Defined by Tl'azt'en Nation"

Supervisor: Dr. **Jane Young**

Date: **October 20, 2010** Time: **2:30 pm** Room: **6-305 Conference Centre**

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

UNBC FISH & WILDLIFE STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

On Wednesday, October 13th and Thursday, October 14th the Wintergarden will be the site for the Annual Fish and Wildlife Student Chapter of TWS **Photo Contest.** Submit your best wildlife shots - furry, feathered or finned! The best photographs will take home prizes (1st place~$50, 2nd~$25, 3rd a TWS hat, Peoples Choice a TWS Hat & copy of the calendar) with 12 being featured in the annual Student Chapter calendar, which benefits the Smithers Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre. Photo Submission to Table #7 in the main hallway of the Agora on October 12th, or at the beginning of the contest on Wednesday morning. Submissions should be 8x10 prints (original composition as photographed please!; landscape-style shots preferred). Entry fees are 1 photo = $5, 2 photos=$7, 3 photos (max)=$9.

CONGRATULATIONS

Brian Menounos, Garry Clarke (UBC), and Dan Moore (UBC) received a $100,000 grant from the Canadian Foundation from Climate and Atmospheric Sciences for their proposal, 'Western Canadian Cryospheric Network: Modelling hydrological impacts of deglaciation'.

PUBLICATIONS

Binici, H., **Arocena, J.**, Kapur, S., Aksogan, O., and H. Kaplan (2010) "Investigation of the physico-chemical and microscopic properties of Ottoman mortars from Erzurum (Turkey)". *Construction and Building Materials* 24:1995–2002

TRAVEL / CONFERENCES / FIELD WORK

Phil Burton attended the Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF) annual general meeting and the inaugural meeting of the CIF Forest Ecology Working Group in Jasper, Alberta, Sept. 29th and 30th. He presented a paper (co-authored with Rene Alfaro) to the Forest Ecology Working Group on "Resilience of Western Forests to Mountain Pine Beetle Outbreaks."

Phil Burton also went to Saskatchewan for the Oct. 2nd-3rd weekend, where he observed a flock of 38 adult and juvenile whooping cranes feeding near a saline lake. Canadian Wildlife Service researchers assert that this represents the largest congregation of whooping cranes (a globally endangered species) witnessed in Canada since records started being kept in the 1930s. Until now, whooping cranes migrating between Wood Buffalo National Park and the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (Texas) have typically travelled in groups of only 2 to 5 individuals.

Roy Rea attended the Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management conference in Revelstoke, October 6th - 7th.

Kathy Lewis attended the 58th Western International Forest Disease Work Conference in Vale, October 4th - 8th

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 MICHELLE KEEN: keenm@unbc.ca