



# NRES WEEKLY NEWS

## October 3 - 7, 2011

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

**CANCELLED**

**Dr. Tracy Summerville**

Associate Professor, Political Science Program, UNBC  
**How do you build science into a community sustainability plan**  
Friday, October 7, 2011



**Dr. Loraine Lavallee**

**Oct. 14, 2011**

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Psychology, UNBC

**Greed, selfishness, immorality, and ignorance — the four horsemen of environmental apocalypse?**



People's environmental inaction is often attributed to problems of individual motivation (greed, selfishness, or laziness), conscience (valuing wealth and consumption over the environment) or ignorance. I will review the results from three studies investigating people's values and conservation behaviour. The findings suggest that the majority of people care about the environment, understand the logic of conservation, and are motivated to achieve environmental goals when they understand the impact of their behaviour on the environment. The evidence, however, further suggests that people's willingness to sacrifice for collective environmental goals is limited by the behaviour of others around them. If the majority of people surrounding the individual are not conserving, even the most committed environmentalists are unlikely to sustain or undertake costly conservation behaviours. Consequently, collective approaches to conservation are likely to be more effective than efforts directed solely at changing individuals' values, beliefs, knowledge, or behaviour.

**Friday, October 14, 2011**

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

**Room: 7-158**

**Dr. Phil Burton**

Cdn. Forest Service and  
Assoc. Adjunct Prof., ESM Program, UNBC

**Classifying and Mapping Forest Disturbance Regimes**



We tend to classify ecosystems, landscapes and regions on the basis of dominant vegetation, assumed to be at equilibrium with the prevailing climate and terrain. But vegetation also reflects its history of disturbance and various attributes of the disturbance regime. Natural ecological disturbances can be characterized by their frequency, annual area affected, seasonality, selectivity and causal agent, many of which may be associated and which change more readily than the distribution of tree species. Several decades of mapped nationwide forest fire data and BC-based fire and insect outbreak histories were used to undertake hierarchical spatially constrained cluster analysis. The resulting maps portray zones of homogenous disturbance regimes, which are discussed in terms of risk analysis and adaptation to climate change.

**Friday, October 21, 2011**

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

**Room: 7-158**

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

**PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO: Michelle Keen: [keenm@unbc.ca](mailto:keenm@unbc.ca)**

## COMING EVENTS

### NRESi Annual Grad IceBreaker and Poster Session 28 Oct 2011 - 4:30 to 5:30pm - Atrium of Teaching & Learning Building

This annual event follows the **Student-Nominated NRESi Colloquium**, which will be given this year by **Dr. Morgan Hocking** (SFU) on "Salmon-ecosystem interactions of the B.C. Central Coast" - **3:30-4:30, 28 Oct, room 8-164**.

The IceBreaker is an opportunity for new and returning graduate students to interact with each other and faculty. We encourage students to present posters of their research, either from UNBC or elsewhere. Sign-up sheets will be posted at the Administrative Assistants' (Marlita, Brenda, Jutta and Michelle's) stations on each floor of Building 8. Please sign up so that we know how many poster boards to order. Alternately, email Jutta Koehler ([koehlerj@unbc.ca](mailto:koehlerj@unbc.ca)), Annie Booth ([annie@unbc.ca](mailto:annie@unbc.ca)) or Ken Otter ([otterk@unbc.ca](mailto:otterk@unbc.ca)) to indicate your intention to present and we will sign you up. Deadline for sign up for posters is 25 Oct 2011 so that we can assure the right number of poster boards.

## NRES INSTITUTE NEWS

The NRES Institute as agreed to serve as a partner with the Healthy Forests-Healthy Communities Network. "Healthy Forests-Healthy Communities is a non-partisan, volunteer-supported initiative intended to capture the concerns and recommendations of experts and community members (including practicing forestry and biology professionals, Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals) to enable informed decision-making for forest lands management in British Columbia. Securing background information from experts in the field and creating opportunities for citizen dialogue will result in a vision for BC's forest lands (Draft Forest Vision) that can be used by decision-makers, Aboriginals and stakeholders. The public's future vision of forest lands will help shape policies, regulations and legislation for sustainable forest management in BC" ([bcforestconversation.com](http://bcforestconversation.com)). Greg Halseth, Gretchen Prystawik and I are coordinating a dialogue session for Nov. 2nd, and that there is an interim report available on the HFHC website that summarizes findings from summer dialogue sessions held in communities around BC.

## PUBLICATIONS

de la Giroday, H.-M., Carroll, A.L., **Lindgren, B.S.**, and **B.H. Aukema** 2011 "Incoming! Association of landscape features with dispersing mountain pine beetle populations during a range expansion event in western Canada." *Landscape Ecology* 26:1097-1110

Wooller, M.J., Zazula, G.D, Blinnikov, M., Gaglioti, B.V., Bigelow, N.H., **Sanborn, P.**, Kuzmina, S. and C. La Farge 2011 "The detailed palaeoecology of a mid-Wisconsinan interstadial (ca. 32 000 <sup>14</sup>C a BP) vegetation surface from interior Alaska." *Journal of Quaternary Science* 26: 746-756

## CONGRATULATIONS

Ken Otter was awarded an NSERC Collaborative Research & Development Grant (CRD) in Sept 2011 for work on avian migration in relation to wind energy. The grant is a partnership between UNBC and Dokie General Partnership (Alterra Energy) & Stantec Consulting, Ltd, to continue tracking of both nocturnal migrants and golden eagle migrations around the Dokie Wind Energy Development near Moberly Lake in BC's Peace Region. This grant totals approximately \$200,000 over two years, and extends the research initiated through an NSERC Strategic Projects Grant into the first two years of post-construction/operation of this wind farm. It is primarily focused on comparing the flight paths of migrants with pre-construction patterns to determine if birds are detecting and compensating trajectories to avoid wind turbines, as well as determining mechanisms to increase such avoidance behaviour. The grant supports the continued work of Naira Johnston (MSc NRES 2011), Isobel Hartley and James Bradley as research associates, Marc d'Entremont (PhD NRES) and Dustin Walsh (Wildlife & Fisheries undergraduate researcher).

## ELSEWHERE ON CAMPUS

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GLOBAL FRIDAYS  
ROOM 5-183  
12:00 - 1:30 pm

October 21, 2011  
Allison Fedorkiw, Exec. Director, 27 Million Voices

**"Child Trafficking in West Africa: Context, Causes & Strategies"**

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We're on the web at : [www.unbc.ca/nres/newsletter](http://www.unbc.ca/nres/newsletter)