



NRES WEEKLY NEWS

February 20 - 24, 2012

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

For Elluminate information and link to the webcast: http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html



NO COLLOQUIUM FEBRUARY 24th

READING WEEK BREAK

Mar. 2, 2012



Dr. Ted Binnema

Professor, Dept. of History, UNBC



Do Salmon Eat Moose?
Reconstructing the BC Environment, 1806-1913

Wildlife biologists increasingly understand that management decisions relating to dwindling mountain caribou herds in British Columbia, and woodland caribou herds throughout Canada's subarctic must take into consideration the historical relationships amongst caribou, moose, and wolves. I will argue that the research must be expanded across more trophic levels in an effort to reconstruct past environments more completely. Indeed, I will argue that the population levels of caribou cannot be understood unless salmon are considered. The presentation will be based on an analysis of historical documents, including unpublished documents of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Friday, March 2, 2012

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Room: 7-212
NOTE ROOM CHANGE

Mar. 9, 2012

Dr. Joe Shea

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, UBC / UNBC



Glacier snowline retrieval and glacier mass change from satellite imagery

Glaciers occupy nearly 27 000 km² of the province of BC, and glacier runoff contributes to summer streamflows in nearly every major river basin in the province. Our glaciers have lost nearly 11% of their total area between 1985 and 2005, and glacier-fed rivers are experiencing shifts in the timing and magnitude of annual runoff. It is thus important to develop regional and annual estimates of glacier mass change, which will impact water resource management, hydroelectric power generation, and sea level rise. This presentation will examine new techniques for estimating glacier mass change over large regions using remotely sensed imagery.

One indicator of glacier health is the elevation of the end-of-summer snowline, or the equilibrium line altitude (ELA). The ELA is a function of annual temperature and precipitation, and variations in the elevation of the ELA are thus related to glacier mass change. By focusing exclusively on glaciated terrain and using daily imagery from the MODIS satellites, we can accurately map daily variations in snowline, and annual variations in ELA. Using ground-based observations and MODIS-derived ELAs we test our regional mass change model on the Columbia Icefield. Future results from this project will contribute to estimates of global sea-level rise from mountain glaciers, which will likely form the largest component of sea-level rise in the 21st century.

Friday, March 9, 2012

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Room: 7-152

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

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



**Fish and Wildlife Compensation
Program Presents:**



Dr. Robert Lackey

Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife
Oregon State University



**Keeping Science Free of Policy Advocacy:
A Practical Guide for Scientists**

Effectively resolving a typical natural resource or environmental policy issue requires an array of scientific information. The ability of scientists to enlighten policy deliberations and debates is diminished when what is offered as “science” is inculcated with policy preferences. The scientific enterprise is not free of values, but values that reflect forms of policy advocacy should not be permitted to prejudice scientific information. Scientific information becomes “normative” when it contains implicit policy preferences and thus, by extension, advocates particular policy options. Scientists should play their important role of informing policy discussions by providing unbiased, understandable scientific information, assessments, and forecasts. Science is important in public policy, but scientists also need to understand when it should not have a role.

Friday, March 16, 2012

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Room: 7-212
NOTE ROOM CHANGE

Meet the speaker 4:30 - 5:30. Refreshments served

GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

Mr. Marcelo Mora is a candidate for the degree:

Master of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Biology)

Mr. Mora will be defending his thesis entitled:

**“Assessing Population Structure and Migratory Patterns of White-Throated Sparrow
(Zonotrichia Albicollis) Breeding Populations in Western Canada”**

Supervisor: Dr. Brent Murray

Date: March 8, 2012 Time: 1:00 pm Room: 6-306

ELSEWHERE

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

**March 9, 2012
Dr. Charles Menzies, UBC**

“On the Edge of the World: Isolation and Globalization in a Breton Fishport”

PUBLICATIONS

Crowley, Shannon, **Johnson, Chris J.** and Dexter Hodder 2012 “Spatial and behavioral scales of habitat selection and activity by river otters at latrine sites”. *Journal of Mammalogy* 93: 170-182

TRAVEL / RESEARCH / CONFERENCES

Titli Kunkel (supervisors: **Ellen Petticrew** and Bob Ellis) will be presenting at UNBC’s Women Warriors: Indigenous Voices conference. Her presentation is titled “Doing research as a ‘de-centered’ African in the Cariboo Chilcotin region”. The conference is March 11 - 13 at the Prince George campus of UNBC.

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