



NRES WEEKLY NEWS

March 12 - 16, 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



Fish and Wildlife Compensation
Program Presents:



FISH AND WILDLIFE
COMPENSATION PROGRAM

Dr. Robert Lackey
Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife
Oregon State University

Mar. 16, 2012



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

Mar. 23, 2012

Dr. Phil Owens

Assoc. Prof., Environmental Science and
FRBC Research Chair in Landscape Ecology, UNBC



Hydrological and geomorphological response of watersheds to wildfire

Wildfires represent one of the major natural disturbances within forested landscapes and have implications for the quality and function of downstream aquatic ecosystems and water resources. Given the anticipated increase in the number and severity of wildfires associated with future climate changes and associated human activities, there is a requirement to investigate landscape responses to wildfire in contrasting environments. This has been identified as an important resource need within the watershed and forest management communities. From a hydrological and geomorphological perspective, there is a research interest in how wildfire-affected landscapes respond and recover to such disturbance events, including: the role of the wildfire event itself; and how subsequent hydrometeorological and vegetation changes influence post-fire processes. This presentation will describe work examining the hydrological and geomorphological response of Fishtrap watershed, near Kamloops, to the 2003 McLure wildfire. The talk will focus on water flows and sediment fluxes over the period 2004 to 2011, but will also discuss changes in channel morphology. Findings suggest that the response is not just a function of the severity of the wildfire.

Friday, March 23, 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](mailto:keenm@unbc.ca)

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



SPECIAL NRESI PRESENTATION

The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area

Wednesday, March 28, 2012
Weldwood Theatre (7-238)
7:00 - 9:00 pm

The MK Management Area (M-KMA) of northern BC covers 6.4 million hectares and is globally important for its wilderness, wildlife and cultures. The M-KMA includes approximately 25% Protected Areas, which will not see any industrial development, and 75% Resource Management Zones, which allow for the use of resources (timber, minerals, oil and gas) as long as wildlife, cultures, and the ecosystems on which they depend are maintained. Today's challenge is to keep the integrity of the land base even as alterations are made to it to meet the world's demand for renewable and non-renewable resources.

This special event will feature opening remarks by the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board (M-KAB) Chair, followed by a screening of the DVD entitled "**The Muskwa-Kechika—A Delicate Balance**". There will then be a brief presentation highlighting multiple values in the M-KMA, the issues, the opportunities and challenges. The event will conclude with a discussion between the audience and M-KAB members.

ELSEWHERE

Dr. Gail Anderson, Associate Professor of forensic science and entomology and Associate Director, School of Criminology, Simon Fraser University will be on campus on **Monday, 19 March**. She is giving a guest lecture on forensic entomology in BIOL 421 at **8:30 - 9:50 am**, room **5-176**. **Interested guests are welcome to attend** (the room can accommodate approximately 20 additional people).

90 Years of Forest Research - presented by Harry Coates

Tuesday, March 27, 2012
Central Interior Railway & Forestry Museum
Reception 6:00 - 7:00, Lecture 7:00 - 8:00

Presented by the UNBC Outdoor Recreation & Tourism Management Program and the Prince George Naturalist Club

Pink Mountain - presented by Ron Paul

Thursday, March 29, 2012
Weldwood Theatre (7-238)
7:30 pm

Pink Mountain, 180 km NW of Fort St. John, stands apart from its surroundings due to its unique geology. The summit supports an assemblage of arctic/alpine plants that simply does not occur anywhere else. Many of these plants are rare and many more are rarely seen and are never seen in the combination and numbers that are found on Pink Mountain. But now commercial development threatens this unique habitat and it could all be lost within a year. The talk will discuss the area's birds, insects, animals and especially the plants and their fascinating adaptations to an extreme environment. Then we move on to the threat and a possible alternative.

Ron Paul was a photographer at Simon Fraser University for thirty-six years. Now retired, Ron travels extensively on plant hunting trips around the world and closer to home. He is Vice-President of the Native Plant Society of BC and leads photography workshops in the Lower Mainland.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Allan Costello received a research grant from the BC Habitat Conservation Trust Fund (HCTF) to examine population structure and conservation value of bull trout and Dolly Varden from Bute Inlet. This area has been the focus of substantial development interest in the form of proposed run-of-river projects. The study will help inform management decisions and conservation priorities in the region. Preliminary funding for this study was provided by a 2010 UNBC Seed Grant.

Allan Costello and collaborator Jeff Lough at the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations in Smithers received a HCTF research grant to assess cutthroat trout migration patterns in the Kitimat River watershed. The project will use radio telemetry and genetic profiling to identify critical cutthroat trout habitats and reproductive ecology in an area also targeted for industrial development.

PUBLICATIONS

Shaw, Leona R. and Jane P. Young 2012 "Ethnobotany of Tl'azt'en Nation: plant use and gathering site characteristics". *Ethnobiology Letters* 3:1-12 Available online at: http://ethnobiology.org/sites/default/files/publications/eb1/pdfs/shaw_young_ebl_2012.pdf

TRAVEL / RESEARCH / CONFERENCES

Stephen Déry presented a talk entitled "Climate change in northern BC and its impacts on water resources" for the Williams Lake Field Naturalists at the Scout Island Nature Centre in Williams Lake on 13 March.

Becky Cadsand (NRES Graduate Student) recently travelled to the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council Symposium in Kamloops, BC, where she presented a paper entitled "Examining movements and resource selection of mountain goats in relation to heli-skiing activity". The paper was co-authored by Mike Gillingham, Doug Heard, and Katherine Parker.

On 12 March, Catherine Nolin (Geography), along with Cristian Silva (MA IDIS '11) and Gisela Ortiz Perea (Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team, EPAF) presented their work with Maya and Quechua women in Guatemala and Peru at the *1st Annual UNBC Women Warriors: Indigenous Voices Conference*. Details: <http://womenwarriorsindigenousvoices.weebly.com/index.html>

NRES Student and Faculty contributions to the Annual Meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers, Kelowna, BC, 8-10 March 2012.

Paper Presentations

Blewett, Jessica (MA candidate), Mapping with (dis)abled people: Towards a participatory, qualitative and holistic approach. **(AWARDED BEST PAPER PRESENTATION IN THE MASTER'S STUDENT CATEGORY)**



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Paper Presentations (cont'd)

Garraway, Leana, and Hanlon, Neil, Knowledge to action: Using research with First Nations for community benefit.

Joe-Strack, Jocelyn, and Petticrew, Ellen, Sediment tracing: An investigation of the use of microbial DNA as a fingerprinting technique.

Reiffarth, Dominic, and Petticrew, Ellen, Tracing the Horsefly using compound-specific isotopes: Avoiding getting bitten.

Vanden Busch, Leah, and Petticrew, Ellen, Seasonal storage, tropic transport, and uptake of marine-derived nutrients in the hyporheic zone of the Horsefly River spawning channel, British Columbia.

Poster Presentations

Koiter, Alex, Lobb, DA, Owens, Phil, Tiessen, KHD, and Li, S, Assessing the sources of suspended sediments in the streams of an agricultural watershed in the Canadian Prairies using ¹³⁷CS as a tracer. **(AWARDED BEST POSTER PRESENTATION IN THE DOCTORAL STUDENT CATEGORY).**

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