



NRES WEEKLY NEWS

October 15 - 19, 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 SERIES

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



Dan Adamson

Community Forest Manager, City of Prince George



Mapping Prince George's Natural Areas & Climate Change Impacts

The City of Prince George has recently completed detailed ecosystem mapping covering 65% or 22,000 hectares of land within the municipal boundary. The resultant 117 ecosystem types have been translated into 14 simplified ecosystems to facilitate broader use. Sensitive ecosystems, high conservation values, intact forest and riparian areas have also been mapped. Local climate model data, soil moisture regime models and the ecosystem mapping were then combined to predict climate change impacts. Models indicate that much of the land may move from Slightly Dry to Moderately Dry conditions by as early as 2020, meaning less soil moisture available and increased drought-stress on certain varieties of trees. A suite of Best Management Practices (BMPs) have also been completed, with particular focus on sensitive and rare ecosystems and zoned land use. The ecosystem mapping has been added to the City's "PGMap" platform allowing easy access. Links have been created between ecosystem mapping and the BMP Report to foster active use of the guide. A website has been completed allowing access to all of the mapping and reports and a Case Study Report has been completed which describes how other municipalities could develop a similar project. The project has resulted in information that will guide future growth and development planning and policies for the City, foster research, education and monitoring partnerships, and provide useful data and mapping to agencies, stakeholder groups (eg., Bear Awareness), and interested members of the public. The City is currently undertaking extension activities to ensure a broad awareness of the project and what information is available.

Friday, October 19, 2012

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Room: 7-152

Dr. David Schindler

Killam Memorial Chair & Professor of Ecology,
Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta



The Oil Sands: Economic Saviour or Environmental Disaster?

The Alberta oil sands are being promoted by the oil sands industry and government officials as the solution to North American energy needs for the foreseeable future. The impacts of oil sand development have been downplayed in propaganda promoting the oil sands. In this lecture, I will discuss some of the impacts that have been ignored or misrepresented, such as water quality, fisheries, wetland reclamation, carbon sequestration, and treaties with aboriginal communities. I will describe events that have led to a recent Federal-Provincial agreement to improve water monitoring. As of October, 2012, no substantive Federal-Provincial monitoring program is in place.

Friday, October 26, 2012

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Room: 7-212

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@unbc.ca

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



GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

Ms. Danielle McIntosh is a candidate for the degree:

Master of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies

Ms. McIntosh will be defending her thesis entitled:

“Wildlife Viewing in the Mountain National Parks of Canada: An Experiential View”

Supervisor: **Dr. Pam Wright**

Date: **October 25, 2012** Time: 9:00 am Room: 6-307 Conference Centre

COMING EVENTS — ELSEWHERE

Coast to Coast Seminar Series: “*The Role of Science in Marine Policy-Making*”, presented by Dr. Jake Rice, Fisheries & Oceans Canada. 30 October at 11:30 - 12:30 in room 3-2024, UNBC Prince George campus. (<http://irmacs.sfu.ca/events/coast-coast-seminars>)

CONGRATULATIONS

Stephen Déry is now a member of the advisory group for a climate change adaptation planning project with the Tsilhqot'in National Government.

TRAVEL / CONFERENCES / RESEARCH

Hugues Massicotte and **Paul Sanborn** spend 12 - 14 Oct. in the Ft. St. James area, including the John Prince Research Forest, doing field work with their M.Sc. student, Kirsten Kilde, and Linda Tackaberry. Kirsten's project will examine the mycorrhizal fungi of Douglas-fir in relation to the chemical properties of soils formed on a variety of parent materials and bedrock types in the Ft. St. James area.

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