



## NRES WEEKLY NEWS

October 8 - 12, 2007

A newsletter for faculty, staff and students  
who participate in the  
Natural Resources & Environmental Studies Institute  
and NRES Graduate Programs

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### Coming Events



### NRESI RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

**Dr. Kathy Parker**

Professor, Ecosystem Science and Management

**“Predator-Prey Interactions in the Muskwa-Kechika”**

The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area in northern British Columbia supports one of the largest intact predator-prey systems in North America. Our research is a collaborative endeavor to quantify the dynamics of the large mammal predator-prey community. Our studies combine field-based research with global positioning satellite locations of ungulates and carnivores, remote-sensing images of vegetation associations, resource modeling, and stable isotope assessments of food habits. Our goal is to quantify interactions among the focal species (grizzly bears, wolves, woodland caribou, Stone's sheep, moose, and elk) in a relatively non-impacted system. The information will inform land management decisions and conservation area designs to help minimize the effects of future impacts to the area.

**Friday, October 12, 2007**

**3:30—4:30 pm**

**Lecture Theatre, 7-150**

*Light Refreshments served at 3:20 pm*

**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  
Elissa Zemlak: [zemlak@unbc.ca](mailto:zemlak@unbc.ca)**

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

## VISITORS

Three master's students arrived in August from the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands, to spend two months at the Quesnel River Research Centre (QRRC) to collect field and flume data on gravel bed channel experiments. Paula Penninkhoff, Linda Wubben and Rineke Hulsman are being supervised by Dr Marcel van der Perk (U Utrecht) and **Drs Ellen Petticrew** and **Philip Owens** (UNBC).

*An open house to showcase this research and other work done by UNBC faculty and graduate students will be taking place at the QRRC on **Saturday October 13th**.*

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This week, ESM would like to welcome Dr. Tim Roth, postdoc from the University of Nevada in Reno (working with Dr. Vladimir Pravosudov). Tim is conducting a study on variation in spatial perception and food storing on chickadees associated with latitude. He is collecting samples from chickadees between Kansas to Alaska. **Prince George** is one of the only Canadian 'stops' on his list.

## FIELD TRIP

Students in three UNBC courses, Systematic Botany (BIOL 301), Plant Ecology (BIOL 404), and Environment and Society (ENPL 205), conducted a joint field trip to the Ancient Forest Trail, east of Prince George, this past Saturday (Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>).

This interdisciplinary field trip examined the biological and social values associated with B.C.'s inland wet temperate rainforest. Discussions on-site were led by **Darwyn Coxson** (ESM), **David Connell** (ENPL), Theresa Healy (ENPL), and **David Radies** (ESM). The Ancient Forest Trail provides a valuable education resource for UNBC and the wider community.

More information on the Ancient Forest trail can be found at <http://wetbelt.unbc.ca/af-trail.htm>

## PUBLICATIONS

Raffa, K.F., Hobson, K.R., LaFontaine, S., and **Aukema, B.H.** 2007. Can chemical communication be cryptic? Adaptations of herbivores to natural enemies exploiting prey semiochemistry. *Oecologia* 153: 1009-1019.

**Petticrew, E.L.** and McConnachie, J.L. (2007). Identifying variable organic matter sources in riverine suspended sediments. Chapter 6.1 in *Sediment Dynamics and Pollutant Mobility in Rivers. An Interdisciplinary Approach* (Eds) Westrich, B. and Förstner, U. Springer Publ. Berlin. pp 218-232.

