

BC's Inland Rainforest – Conservation and Community

**University of Northern British Columbia,
Prince George, BC: May 21–23, 2008**

We would invite your participation in the upcoming conference to be held May 21 to 23 at the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George entitled “**BC's Inland Rainforest – Conservation and Community**”. This conference will look at emerging research findings on the wet forests that cover the inland mountain ranges in BC and extend southward into Idaho and Montana.

BC's Inland Rainforests are poised to assume much greater significance to the Province of British Columbia over the next decade. As wood from mountain pine beetle stands diminishes the focus of BC's forest industry will shift increasingly to interior mountain forests. At the same time we have a much greater awareness of the many unique attributes of these ecosystems and the potential threats they face from climate change and habitat fragmentation.

Conference speakers will address topics that range from the management of endangered species, to innovative forest harvesting techniques, value-added manufacturing, and development of ecotourism opportunities.

The first day of the conference will be held at UNBC. First day events include oral and poster presentations by scientists, experts from non-governmental organizations, and members from local community and industry groups. An afternoon cultural forum will highlight artwork and literature that portrays community visions of BC's inland rainforest. In the evening a public lecture will highlight the “Conservation Biology of BC's Inland Rainforest”.

On the second day of the conference the rubber hits the road. Conference participants will spend the day in the field, talking with local experts as they visit forest harvesting trials, tour new ecotourism developments, and visit sensitive inland rainforest stands. The evening will culminate in a community barbeque at Dome Creek, to be hosted by the Dome Creek Community Association. This will be a great opportunity to see firsthand innovative examples of community led sustainable development in BC's inland rainforest.

The third day of the conference will open with a presentation by invited speaker Bruce Fraser, Chair of the BC Forest Practices Board, to be followed by a panel discussion presenting future visions of the sustainable development of BC's inland rainforest.

For more information on conference events please visit:

<http://wetbelt.unbc.ca/2008-conference.html> or contact Al Wiensczyk
(Phone: 250- 614-4354; email: alan.wiensczyk@forrex.org).

*This event is hosted by the University of Northern British Columbia and
the FORREX Forest Research Extension Society.*



**BC's Inland Rainforest – Conservation and Community
University of Northern B.C., May 21-23, 2008.**

Preliminary Conference agenda (May 12, 2008).

All presentations in the UNBC Weldwood Theatre unless otherwise noted.

Time	Speaker	Title/Topic
Day 1		
7:30-8:15	Registration	
8:15-8:30	Darwyn Coxson. University of Northern British Columbia	Welcome and Greetings
8:30-9:00	Trevor Goward. Enlivened Consulting, Clearwater	Inland Temperate rainforests: Made in Canada.
9:00-9:25	Daniel Gavin. Department of Geography, University of Oregon	Assembling the biota of the interior wet belt: separate lines of evidence from paleoecology, phylogeography and climate models.
9:25-9:50	Craig DeLong and Marty Kranabetter. BC Ministry of Forests and Range	Changes in stand structure, vascular plants, and ectomycorrhizal fungi over stand age in forests of ICH
9:50-10:15	Michael Feller. Forest Sciences Department, University of British Columbia	Old growth and forest fire in ICH forests near Revelstoke, BC
10:15-10:40	Coffee Break	
10:40-11:05	Brian A. Heise. Natural Resource Sciences, Thompson Rivers University	Harvesting effects on fish food resources in headwater streams of the interior rainforest.
11:05-11:30	Ben Heemskirk, Erin Hall and Allan Banner. BC Ministry of Forests and Range	Ecosystem Recovery – how have forests of the northwestern interior Cedar-Hemlock zone responded to past disturbances
11:30-11:55	Lance Craighead, Thomas Olenicki, Brent Brock. Craighead Environmental Research Institute, Bozeman Justin Williams. Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.	A conservation area design for the inland temperate rainforest based on focal species
11:55-12:15	Rick Zammuto. Save-The-Cedar League, Crescent Spur	Rainforest conservation biology corridor for Robson valley.
12:15-13:30	Lunch	

**BC's Inland Rainforest – Conservation and Community
University of Northern B.C., May 21-23, 2008.**

Day 1		
13:30-13:55	Andre Arsenault. BC Ministry of Forests and Range	Pattern and process in old-growth rainforests of southern British Columbia
13:55-14:20	Anne Sherrod, Craig Pettitt, and Wayne McCrory. Valhalla Wilderness Society, New Denver	Thirty years of conservation in the ICH
14:20-14:45	Shane Bressette. TRC Cedar Ltd., McBride	Value Added in the ICH – opportunities and challenges
14:45-15:10	John Pousette. BC Ministry of Forests and Range, Prince George	Timber Supply in the ICH - A historical perspective and a look forward.
15:10-15:35	Justin Calof. BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Integrated Land Management Bureau, Prince George	Legacy biodiversity completion in the Prince George rare interior cedar hemlock zone
15:35-17:30	Viewing of Scientific Posters and Cultural Forum Artwork – Bentley Centre Cultural Forum Chair: Susan Stevenson, Silvifauna Research, Prince George.	
16:00-16:45	Readings of Poetry and Prose. Jeremy Steward (emcee). Jacqueline Baldwin; Hilary Crowley; Virginia Karr; Mike Nash; Susan Stevenson	
17:30-19:00	Dinner	
18:30-19:30	Public Viewing of Visual Art Displays Jean Brandel; Central Fort George Traditional School – Grade 3 class (Maggee Spicer); Darwyn Coxson; Duchess Park Secondary School Art Students (Nowell Senior); Sheilagh Foster; Jean-Jacques Giguère ; David Marchant ; Dan Moore ; Barbara Scholz.	
19:30-21:00	Public Presentation – Canfor Theatre, UNBC – Prince George Campus Dr. Darwyn Coxson, Ecosystem Science and Management Program, UNBC	<i>B.C.'s Inland Rainforest – Our Legacy for Future Generations.</i>

**BC's Inland Rainforest – Conservation and Community
University of Northern B.C., May 21-23, 2008.**

Day 2	Field Trip Day Examples of Innovation – BC's Inland Rainforest – Conservation and Community.	
7:30	Depart UNBC	
9:00-12:00	Innovative Forest Harvesting Practices	Andrea Eastham, Mike Jull, Susan Stevenson
12:00-13:00	Lunch – Slim Creek	
13:15-16:00	Ecotourism and Biodiversity – Ancient Forest Trail	Dave Connell, Hugh Perkins, Dave King, Darwyn Coxson, Nowell Senior, Marc von der Gonna.
16:30-21:00	Dome Creek BBQ	Demonstrations, craft fair, dinner

Day 3	A Vision for the Future - BC's Inland Rainforest – Conservation and Community.	
8:30	Intro to Day	Organizing Committee
8:45-9:30	Bruce Fraser, Chair of the BC Forest Practices Board Summary Presentation Future Visions of BC's Inland Rainforest.	
9:30-10:00	Coffee	
10:00-12:00	Facilitated panel discussion – A Future vision for B.C.'s Inland Rainforest Anne Sherrod, Valhalla Wilderness Society Justin Calof, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Integrated Land Management Bureau Del Williams, Revelstoke Community Forest Hugh Perkins, Dome Creek Community Association	
12:00-12:30	Pamela Wright, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management, University of Northern British Columbia	Wrap-up and summation – moving forward.

***BC's Inland Rainforest – Conservation and Community
University of Northern B.C., May 21-23, 2008.***

Media contacts:

Darwyn Coxson, Ecosystem Management Program, University of Northern British Columbia
Phone: 250-960-6646; email: darwyn@unbc.ca

Mike Nash, author of *Exploring Prince George - A Guide to North Central B.C. Outdoors*
Phone: 250-962-2453; email: michaelnash@telus.net

Susan Stevenson, Silvifauna Research, Prince George.
Phone: 250-564-5695; email: inlandrainforest@telus.net

Hugh Perkins, Dome Creek Community Association. Email:
Phone: 250-553-2313; email: Borealis33@aol.com

David Connell, Environmental Planning Program, University of Northern British Columbia
Phone: 250-960-5835; email: connell@unbc.ca

Advance Glimpses - Selected Presentation Speakers:

Trevor Goward from Enrichened Consulting, Clearwater, B.C. will be discussing the globally unique ecological attributes of B.C.'s inland rainforest, one of the only wet temperate rainforest ecosystems worldwide that sits nearly a thousand kilometres distant from the nearest ocean.

Lance Craighead from the Craighead Environmental Research Institute in Bozeman, Montana, will present a proposed conservation area design for the inland temperate rainforest in western North America based on the needs of key wildlife species.

Justin Calof from the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Integrated Land Management Bureau, Prince George will discuss the Legacy Biodiversity Completion Project, one of the first overview studies of where rare biodiversity elements reside in the inland rainforest near Prince George.

Darwyn Coxson from the Ecosystem Science and Management Program will present a public presentation on the evening of May 21st discussing *B.C.'s Inland Rainforest – A Unique Legacy for Future Generations*.