



NRES WEEKLY NEWS

March 14 - March 18, 2011

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

NRESI RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

March 11, 2011

Scott Green

Associate Professor

Ecosystem Science & Management

Forest Management in the Age of Change: A Yukon Perspective



Environmental change plays out continuously in nature, and ecosystems are adjusting to fluctuations all the time. The degree and nature of “change” is expected to create growing challenges in coming decades for both natural ecosystems and management frameworks for adaptation and mitigation. A multi-year study of forest ecosystems across the Yukon Territory suggests a complex and challenging future landscape. This presentation will summarize some of the potential challenges and preliminary recommendations in facing an uncertain future.

Friday, March 11, 2011

3:30—4:30 pm

7-150

COMING EVENTS

NRESI RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

March 18, 2011

SPECIAL RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

Sponsored by the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions

Sabine Pahl

Lecturer in Psychology

University of Plymouth, UK

The Psychology of Climate Change



The human dimension is crucial in understanding climate change processes and in developing adaptation and mitigation measures. This talk will explore the contribution of psychological approaches to climate solutions, focusing on perceptions and behavior change. First I will discuss why the human mind has difficulty understanding big challenges such as climate change, with a focus on the role of psychological distance. Then selected examples will illustrate how we can overcome the distance. Specifically data from two projects will be presented. The first project investigated the psychological implications of presenting a range of very simple future scenarios to student samples, in terms of emotional reactions and behavior effects. The second project used thermo-graphic images to visualize heat loss from homes in the community, in order to motivate energy saving behavior. Homeowners found the images compelling and engaged in more energy saving actions than an audit-only comparison group. Limitations and avenues for future research relating to these early findings will be discussed.

Friday, March 18, 2011

3:30—4:30 pm

7-150

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

For a list of upcoming seminars: <http://www.unbc.ca/nres/seminar/>

Please note that Dr. Lavallee's talk, originally scheduled for March 18th, has been postponed to the fall semester. Please see next page for info on the March 18th speaker.

March 21, 2011

SPECIAL RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

Sponsored by the UNBC Fish & Wildlife Student Chapter of TWS

Bob Hayes

Retired Biologist and Author
The Wolves of the Yukon

For 20 years, Bob Hayes was the Yukon's wolf biologist. During that time he studied hundreds of radio-collared wolves and conducted several long-term wolf-prey studies. He is considered a world expert on kill rate by wolves on moose and caribou and the effects of wolf control on wolves and their prey. Bob's long-term research has led him to believe widespread aerial control of wolves is biologically wrong and that non-lethal methods of reducing predation is the future of wolf

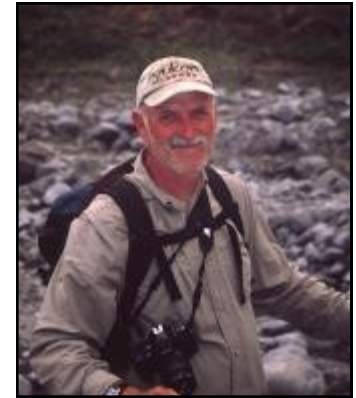
management. Bob served as a Canadian member of the IUCN Wolf

Specialist group for nearly a decade. He and his wife, Caroline, share their time between Whitehorse and Smithers, British Columbia. Bob is a Simon Fraser University Alumni. Bob's talk will integrate some of the science that he did while a biologist in Yukon with some of the material in his recent book "The Wolves of the Yukon".

Monday, March 21, 2011

7:00 pm

7-238



NRES INSTITUTE NEWS

The Institute is pleased to welcome its newest member, Dr. Jennifer Psyllakis. Dr. Psyllakis is a senior biologist with the Ecosystem Sustainability section of the BC Ministry of Environment responsible for leading and contributing to a number of legislative and policy initiatives, as well as coordinating the program for fish and wildlife orders made under the Forest and Range Practices Act and the Oil and Gas Activities Act. One of Jennifer's interests is in developing innovative solutions through both interdisciplinary research and collaborative thought.

PUBLICATIONS

Gustine, D.D., P.S. Barboza, L.G. Adams, R.G. Farnell, and **K. L. Parker**. 2011. An isotopic approach to measuring nitrogen balance in caribou. *Journal of Wildlife Management*. 75:178-188.

García, O. 2011. Dynamical implications of the variability representation in site-index modelling. *European Journal of Forest Research* ('Online First', doi 10.1007/s10342-010-0458-0).

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: Jutta Koehler: koehlerj@unbc.ca

PICS NEWS

Understanding Forests, Carbon, and Climate Change

Workshops in Prince George March 22nd, Terrace March 24th, and Quesnel March 29th.

To register for this event please visit www.unbc.ca/pics.

The Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, UNBC and the BC Year of Science are hosting three workshops in Northern BC to help uncover the new opportunities provided by our forests. The workshops start by asking the question; what is wood? Understanding the basic processes of a growing forest helps to understand the important relationship they hold with climate change. Why biomass fuel from forest wastes is considered carbon neutral will be discussed along with the issue of forest sustainability.

The next step in the workshops will be to take a practical look at the uses of wood energy and the options available to organizations and individuals for use. The biofuels to be discussed include: wood pellets, hog fuel, and liquid biofuels such as ethanol, biodiesel, and biogasoline. The process of gasification will also be explained in great detail to showcase the UNBC bioenergy project. Following an explanation of what biofuels from wood are the workshop will change focus to carbon offsets from forestry. Carbon offsets can not only be created by using bioenergy instead of traditional fossil fuels but also by growing trees to absorb and sequester carbon dioxide from the air. To this end, the final section of the workshops will answer the question; how much carbon is in this tree?

CONGRATULATIONS

The publication Climate change and range expansion of an aggressive bark beetle: evidence of higher beetle reproduction in naïve host tree populations by Timothy J. Cudmore, Niklas Björklund, Allan L. Carroll, and **B. Staffan Lindgren** is currently the top read (=downloaded) paper in the Journal of Applied Ecology (<http://www.journalofappliedecology.org/view/0/toppapers.html>).

It is one of only a few primary research papers ranked in the top 10 in that category.

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

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