



# NRESi WEEKLY NEWS

## March 31-April 4, 2014

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

### NRESi NOTES

### FROM THE DIRECTOR & RESEARCH MANAGER

Hello everyone,

We are in the middle of some great NRESi events and we thank those of you who have joined us for the Peace Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program lecture on Friday and Annual Lecture last night! It was great to see the events so well attended and the discussion that resulted. For those who missed it, visit NRESi's colloquium archive site to view both presentations in the coming weeks (<http://www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/colloquium-series/archived-colloquium-series>).

We are looking forward to hearing Al Gorley talk again **this afternoon (Friday, April 4th)** during our weekly colloquium at **3:30pm in 8-166**. He will be looking at the value an external watchdog has to the forest sector and the benefit that could also be realized with other natural resources. We hope you are able to join us. If not, it will be broadcast on Elluminate (<http://www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/webcast>), as well as posted to the above archive site.

Next **Tuesday, April 8th**, NRESi will be hosting its annual NRES 430 Undergraduate Thesis Presentation event from **9:30am-12:15pm in the Bentley Centre**. All interested faculty, staff, and students are welcome to attend! We hope you will join us for some or all of the morning. A schedule can be found on page 3.

As many of you know, Bill McGill will be stepping down as Director of NRESi on September 1st or before, when a replacement is identified. A **Search Committee** is being formed and we are looking for **two representatives from the membership** to participate. Please let me know if you are interested by **Thursday, April 10th**.

NRESi will be holding its **Annual General Meeting** of members on **Thursday, May 29th from 10am-12pm**. Please mark this in your calendars to attend!

See you at the upcoming events!

Leanne Elliott  
NRESi Research Manager

**REMINDER:** Share your information about recent publications, grants, and/or other honors you may have received with others interested in future NRESi issues.

**PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO: [leanne.elliott@unbc.ca](mailto:leanne.elliott@unbc.ca)**

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



**COMING EVENTS**

**NRESI RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES**



**Al Gorley**  
 President, Triangle Resources Inc.  
 & Former Chair, B.C. Forest Practices Board



**Why Have a One-Eyed Watchdog?**

How independent oversight can improve industries' social licence

Social licence is a term used to describe the general approval society gives to industries operating on public lands. The extent to which it exists depends upon the public's confidence that industries will follow rules, act responsibly, and generate more public benefit than harm.

British Columbia's Forest Practices Board has been reporting publically on companies' compliance with forest practices laws and on government enforcement for nearly two decades. The board's work has helped to maintain public acceptance and marketplace assurance for the forest industry. However, there is no similar independent watchdog for other industries operating on public land. The presenter suggests it may be time for this type of oversight to be applied to all resource sectors.

**Friday, APRIL 4, 2014**

**3:30 pm - 4:30 pm**

**Room: 8-166**

**COMING EVENTS**

**UNDERGRADUATE THESIS PRESENTATION EVENT**

The annual Undergraduate Thesis Presentations will be held on **Tuesday, April 8th from 9:30am-12:15pm in the Bentley Centre (7-170/172)**. This is a great opportunity to see what students have been doing for their thesis research. Each presentation will be approximately 10 minutes with 5 minutes for questions. Refreshments and lunch following the presentations will be provided by NRESi. All faculty, staff, and students are welcome to attend!

Time	Presenter	Thesis Title	Supervisor	Second Reader
9:30	Kourtney Scott	Intrinsic and extrinsic factors affecting age at fledging in cavity nesting birds	Russ Dawson	Mark Shrimpton
9:50	Adam O'Dell	Determining diets for fish from a small interior stream: a comparison of morphological and genetic approaches	Mark Shrimpton	Dezene Huber
10:10	Angela Grob	To be determined	Brent Murray	Marla Schwarzfeld
10:30	Break			
10:50	Allan Prest	Examining Arboreal Lichen Dispersal into Sub-Boreal Spruce Clearcut Stands in North Central British Columbia	Art Fredeen & Darwyn Coxson	Mike Jull
11:10	Gabrielle Aubertin	Applications of remote cameras to monitor American marten ( <i>Martes americana</i> ) in north central British Columbia	Philippe Henry & Shannon Crowley	Dexter Hodder
11:30	Daniel McClair	Do parent Mountain Bluebirds ( <i>Sialia currucoides</i> ) adjust provisioning rate in response to environmental disturbance?	Russ Dawson	Dezene Huber
11:50	Rick Elsner	Differences in growth and smolting among populations of sockeye salmon from across British Columbia	Mark Shrimpton	Russ Dawson

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**Dr. Michael Russello**

Associate Professor,  
The University of British Columbia, Okanagan campus

**Designing Units of Conservation:  
Persistent Challenges and Emerging Opportunities**

Conservation biology emerged as a crisis discipline, with the goal of applying best available science towards stemming the rate of biodiversity loss. As the resources available for protection do not match the scope of the threats, significant efforts have been directed towards developing a framework for identifying and prioritizing “units of conservation”. In some cases, conservation units have been synonymized with various species concepts [e.g. phylogenetic species concept (PSC)]; in other cases, they have been based on recognizing intra-specific variation (e.g. evolutionarily significant units) or other considerations (e.g. designatable units). After over two decades, no consensus has emerged. Therein, the authors advocated an approach to conservation unit delimitation based upon the differential fitness species concept (DFSC) a broader version of the biological species concept that requires “substantial” pre-/post-zygotic reproduction isolation. They further concluded that the PSC is unsuitable in a conservation context due to various concerns related to “excessive splitting”. Here, I contend that the criticisms of the PSC are based more on its misapplication than conceptual underpinnings. I further discuss how the approach they recommended lacks the operationalism required for effective biodiversity conservation. Moreover, I argue that the PSC, when soundly applied, provides the optimal balance of theoretical consistency and operationalism of all existing concepts. Lastly, I discuss efforts to integrate adaptive genetic variation into conservation prioritization, and the need for a new framework to inform effective management strategies.

**Friday, APRIL 11, 2014****3:30 pm - 4:30 pm****Room: 8-166****TRAVEL**

**Hugues Massicotte** (ESM) will join a second reviewer this week in Québec to undertake the academic review of Université Laval Agroforestry program (a part of their forestry program) and report to their VP academic.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Amalesh Dhar**, Nicole Balliet & **Christopher D.B. Hawkins**. (2014): Variability in height growth, survival and nursery carryover effect of *Betula papyrifera* provenances, Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research, DOI: 10.1080/02827581.2014.881541

Schiefer, E., **Petticrew, E.L.**, Immell, R., Hassan, M.A, and Sonderegger, D.L. (2014). Land use and climate change impacts on lake sedimentation rates in western Canada. Anthropocene [doi.org/10.1016/j.ancene.2014.02.006](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ancene.2014.02.006)

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