



NRESi WEEKLY NEWS

April 7-11, 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,

Happy end of classes to those of you at the university! You can almost feel the collective sigh of relief now that another semester is nearing the end.

Big congratulations to the undergraduate students and their thesis supervisors for a great day on Tuesday. I heard and agree with the many comments about the high quality of the projects and student expertise this year; you have a lot to be proud of! Best of luck to the graduate students who are also defending this week!

Today will be our last colloquium until September. We are welcoming Dr. Michael Russello from the University of British Columbia. His presentation is titled: Designing Units of Conservation: Persistent Challenges and Emerging Opportunities. Hope you will join us! As always, you can also connect remotely through Elluminate.

Next **Wednesday, April 16th from 6pm-8pm**, we will be meeting in the **Bentley Centre (7-172)** to continue the **discussion on forest tenures** started last week with Al Gorley's presentation. The purpose of the event is to further educate each other on the pros and cons from various perspectives, while rolling up our sleeves to consider the options and fostering the development of some creative solutions, as input into the Government of BC's consultation process. This is an open invitation to those interested in feeding their expertise into this important discussion. Please RSVP to me if you are interested (first come, first serve). More information and resources can be found on the next page.

On **Thursday, April 17th at 12pm in room 5-172**, NRESi is jointly hosting a **special lecture** with the Department of Economics and the Ecosystem Sciences & Management Program. We will be hosting Bryan Bogdanski, a Research Economist with the Canadian Forest Service, Pacific Forestry Centre. His talk is titled: The State of Secondary Wood Manufacturing in British Columbia. We hope you will be able to join us!

Please mark **Thursday, May 29th from 10am-12pm** in your calendars to attend **NRESi's 2014 Annual General Meeting**. More details to come.

Have a great weekend!

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

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



COMING EVENTS

NRESi RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

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

COMING EVENTS

NRESi WORKSHOP

Expansion of area-based forest tenures in BC? An evening meeting to discuss the future of BC forest tenure

Motivation: The province of BC under Hon. Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, is proposing that we expand area-based forest tenure licenses. The government will be engaging and consulting with BC residents on this issue until 30 May 2014. Thus, we need to creatively engage this question in the 6 weeks remaining.

The questions are numerous. What do we want? Would this mean an expansion of TFLs? What other models are there for area-based tenure? What are our preferences for the blend of tenures overall? Are you motivated to join us in an open discussion on this issue?

Process: We are developing a process for the evening to make the most of the time allotted, with the goal being to have an open and honest discussion of the issue.

Resources:

- (a) Background & news release: <http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2014/04/public-input-invited-on-expansion-of-area-based-tenures.html>
- (b) Info & blog: <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/foresttenures/>
- (c) Discussion paper: http://engage.gov.bc.ca/foresttenures/files/2014/03/Forest_Tenure_Discuss_Paper.pdf

RSVP: First come, first serve. Please RSVP to Leanne Elliott: leanne.elliott@unbc.ca

Wednesday, APRIL 17, 2014

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Room: 7-172

DINNER at 6pm

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COMING EVENTS

SPECIAL JOINT LECTURE PRESENTATION

DEPARTMENT of
ECONOMICS



**ECOSYSTEM SCIENCE
& MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM**

Bryan Bogdanski

Research Economist
Industry, Trade and Economics Group, Pacific Forestry Centre
Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada



The State of Secondary Wood Manufacturing in British Columbia

The BC wood products sector has gone through a tumultuous period beginning with the start of the US housing recession in 2007. Conditions have improved markedly over the past few years but in many ways the industry is still in a rebuilding phase. While most attention has focused on the large primary firms that produce structural lumber and panel products, less attention has been directed to the secondary manufacturing sector. In this talk we will draw insights from the most recent installment of the Canadian Forest Service's periodic survey of BC secondary solid wood product manufacturers to get a sense of the state of this sub-sector and what challenges may lie ahead.

Thursday, APRIL 17, 2014

12:00pm-1:00pm

Room: 5-172

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

THESIS DEFENCE NOTICES

GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

Mr. Christopher Rose is a candidate for the degree:

Master of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies

Mr. Rose will be defending his thesis entitled:

"Towards Watershed Governance: Emerging Lessons from Community-Based Water Governance Approaches in British Columbia"

Supervisor: **Dr. Margot Parkes**

Date: **April 11th, 2014** Time: 12:00pm Room: 6-305

GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

Ms. Sonja Ostertag is a candidate for the degree:

Doctor of Philosophy - Natural Resources and Environmental Studies

Ms. Ostertag will be defending her thesis entitled:

"Assessing the Neurotoxicological Risk of Methylmercury Exposure for Beluga Whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*) Harvested in the Mackenzie Delta Estuary"

Supervisors: **Dr. Laurie Chan & Dr. Gary Wilson**

Date: **April 14th, 2014** Time: 9:00 am Room: The Gathering Place (5-123)

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THESIS DEFENCE NOTICES

GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

Ms. Tara Bergeson is a candidate for the degree:

Master of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Forestry)

Ms. Bergeson will be defending her thesis entitled:

“Use of Filtrate from Crop Residue Ash for Cooking in Rural Households in Northern Uganda”

Supervisor: **Dr. Chris Opio**

Date: **April 14th, 2014** Time: 9:00am Room: 6-307

GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

Ms. Adrienne Houlberg is a candidate for the degree:

Master of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies

Ms. Houlberg will be defending her thesis entitled:

“A Study of Four Prince George Community Gardens: Goals, Benefits and Challenges of Public and Private Community Gardens”

Supervisor: **Dr. Annie Booth**

Date: **April 17th, 2014** Time: 10:00am Room: 5-122

TRAVEL

Ian Hartley attended a workshop on “Products from Forest Residuals” hosted by FPInnovations and the BC Bioeconomy Research, Innovation and Commercialization Working Group in Vancouver on April 10, 2014.

Staffan Lindgren will travel to the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, April 9-15, where he will give an invited seminar on “How the beetle won the war: A review of the evidence”, visit some field sites, and meet with graduate students. Staffan will be hosted by Drs. Fred Stephen, a prominent forest entomologist, and Dr. Rob Wiedenmann, biological control entomologist, Head of the Department of Entomology and Past President of the Entomological Society of America.

Gail Fondahl attended the Arctic Science Summit Week (Helsinki) 5-8 April, where she was involved in the International Arctic Science Committee's Social & Human Sciences Working Group meeting, as Canadian representative and vice chair. She also represented the International Arctic Social Sciences Association at a meeting of the Steering Committee for the International Committee on Arctic Research Planning III (ICARP III), a process launched at ASSW 2014 and continuing for the next year.

PUBLICATIONS

Johnston NN, Bradley JE, **Otter KA** (2014) Increased Flight Altitudes among Migrating Golden Eagles Suggest Turbine Avoidance at a Rocky Mountain Wind Installation. PLoS ONE 9(3): e93030. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0093030

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