



"Our environment is our future"

RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Melissa Todd

Coast Forest Region Research Section
 BC Ministry of Forests and Range



Wednesday
Jan. 27, 2010

3:30 - 4:30

LECTURE THEATRE

7 - 238

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
 SERVED AT 3:20 PM

Monitoring silent frogs in noisy streams . . . or . . . how many times can I fill my boots in one day?

Coastal Tailed Frogs (*Ascaphus trueii*) and Rocky Mountain Tailed Frogs (*Ascaphus montanus*) are uniquely adapted to life in cool, fast-flowing mountain streams with large cobble substrates and step-pools, where life can be a bit noisy. They are a treasure trove of weird wildlife trivia! They have no eardrums, they're voiceless, and they have ribs (other frogs do not). Their tongues are attached to the bottom of their mouths instead of at the front, so they can't "throw" out their tongues to catch prey like other frog species. The tadpoles have a sucker-like mouth . . . all the better to hold and feed in fast flowing water. Tadpoles can spend forever in the stream (up to 4 years), teenagers can spend another 3 to 4 years to reach sexual maturity, and adults can grow really old (15-20 years). They are a primitive anuran; their closest living relatives are in New Zealand. And then there's that "tail". Blue-listed (Coastal) and red-listed (Rocky Mountain), tailed frogs are vulnerable to human activities that affect cool, fast-flowing mountain streams, such as forest harvesting and road crossings. I will introduce more of the tailed frog's quirks, review current approaches to conserving tailed frog habitat in forested ecosystems on the coast and in the south-eastern interior of BC, and discuss monitoring initiatives for evaluating the effectiveness of management.