



NRES WEEKLY NEWS

March 15 - 19, 2010

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

COMING EVENTS

NRESI RESEARCH COLLO-

This Friday

Sybille Haeussler, PhD RPF

Research Coordinator, Future Forest Ecosystem Scientific Council (FFESC)
Ecosystem Science & Management Program, UNBC



**Complexity Affects the Resilience of Northern BC Ecosystems,
Landscapes and Social-Ecological Networks**

The Economist (Dec. 5, 2009) stated that “climate change is the hardest political problem the world has ever had to deal with”. For ecologists, grappling effectively with the implications of climate change will require new approaches to our science that embrace complexity, interdisciplinarity and non-scientific world views. The presentation will outline my own recent attempts to address this challenge by applying theory and analytical approaches from complex systems science to my highly specialized empirical knowledge of the ecosystems, landscapes and social-ecological networks of northern BC. I will use case studies from 30 years of fieldwork in forest and grassland ecosystems of northwest BC as well as some personal experiences as a “citizen scholar” involved in local community capacity-building in the Bulkley Valley to examine how ecological or social-ecological resilience is related to system complexity and to discuss how these relationships may affect responses to climate change.

Mar. 12, 2010

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Lecture Theatre 7-152



Bram Noble, PhD
Dept. of Geography & Planning
University of Saskatchewan

Next Friday

**Comfort monitoring? Privatization and environmental assessment
follow-up in Saskatchewan's uranium mining industry**

Occupying nearly one third of the surface area of the Saskatchewan Shield (100,000 km²), the Athabasca Basin is one of the world's largest sources of uranium, contributing approximately 22% to global supply. The Basin is also home to three remote Aboriginal settlements and four small hamlets and communities. Follow-up and monitoring of the impacts of uranium mining in the Athabasca Basin occurs under two frameworks — regulatory-based EIA and, more recently, privatized community-industry negotiated environmental agreements. Negotiated agreements are becoming common-practice in the mining industry, with more than 120 agreements currently established nation-wide. In principle, negotiated agreements are said to respond to many of the shortcomings of EIA by providing for improved follow-up of project impacts through, among other things, data provision, engaging stakeholders in monitoring and impact management activities, and building capacity at the local level to deal with project-induced environmental change. In practice, however, little is known about the efficacy of monitoring under negotiated agreements and the demonstrated value-added to project impact management. This presentation will discuss follow-up practices in the Athabasca uranium mining industry, and examine whether and how monitoring under the negotiated agreement actually contributes to improved project impact management. Results will show that follow-up under the agreement is best described as “comfort monitoring”. Although such monitoring does improve community-industry relations and enhance corporate image, it does little to support effects-based management. If monitoring under negotiated agreements is to be credible over the long term, there is a need to ensure that monitoring results are useful for, and integrated with, regulatory-based monitoring and project impact management practices.

Mar. 19, 2010

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Lecture Theatre 7-152

Unable to make it in person? Watch the colloquium at your desk!

For Elluminate information and link to the webcast: http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html
Log in as “Guest”

Global Fridays

Senate Chambers

12:00 - 1:30 pm

March 19, 2010

William E. Rees, PhD, FRSC, Professor, UBC School of Community & Regional Planning

Globalization, Eco-Footprints and the Unsustainable Entanglement of Nations

NRESi Annual Poster Session

March 18, 2010

UNBC Atrium

Set up: 4:30 pm

Poster Session: 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Showcase your research at the NRESi's Annual Poster Session, preceding the Annual NRESi Lecture. NRES graduate students and NRESi members alike are invited to present posters.

PUBLIC LECTURE

7:00 pm — Canfor Theatre (6-213)

Dr. Bram Noble

Associate Professor, Dept. of Geography & Planning, University of Saskatchewan

Cumulative Environmental Effects and the Tyranny of Small Decisions



ONLINE WEBINAR SERIES

FORREX is hosting "What's New in Forest Productivity Research?" Online Webinar Series in March. All webinars run from 10:30 - 11:30 am. If you want to register for any of these online webinars, view recordings and presentation materials for past webinars, or for updates and additions to the lineup:

www.forrex.org/program/forest/Forest_Productivity_Research_asp .

- ◆ March 18, 2010: Alex Woods, BC MFR — "FREP stand development monitoring: What have we learned so far?"
- ◆ March 25, 2010: Craig DeLong, BC MFR — "Developing a climate change risk analysis and decision support tool."

CALL FOR PAPERS

The **Community Development Institute** (CDI), in partnership with **UNBC's Vice-President Research**, is sponsoring an annual Graduate Student Paper Competition with a **\$500 award**. The successful submission will be published through the CDI.

To be eligible, submissions should be:

- ◆ Submitted by a UNBC graduate student. (Open to students in any degree program who are/were enrolled at UNBC in that academic year or whose convocation was in that academic year. Co-authorship is permitted, but the student must be the first author.)
- ◆ Report original and previously unpublished research
- ◆ Be on a topic of relevance to community development in northern BC
- ◆ Maximum of 40 pages, single spaced, WORD format, submitted electronically
- ◆ Submitted to the CDI by **June 1st** each calendar year with the award to be announced at the end of June

For more information, please contact: Don Manson, Coordinator (manson@unbc.ca; 250-960-5018)

<http://www.unbc.ca/cdi>

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

PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO MICHELLE KEEN: keenm@unbc.ca

UNBC Fish & Wildlife Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

On **Tuesday, March 30th** at 7:00 pm (room TBA), the UNBC Fish & Wildlife Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society will host a special NRES Institute Colloquium in recognition of the 100th birthday of Dr. Ian McTaggart Cowan, who throughout his career has made outstanding contributions to our understanding of mammals and birds. The lecture, tentatively titled "Major challenges for wildlife management in Canada and solutions to these problems", will be given by Dr. Valerius Geist (Professor Emeritus, University of Calgary) — as a former student of Dr. Cowan, Dr. Geist will also share some perspectives on Dr. Cowan's career. Please mark your calendars for this special event.

News

"The enemy of my enemy is still my enemy: competitors add to predator load of a tree-killing bark-beetle" by Celia Boone et al. has been selected as the best paper published during 2008/09 by *Agricultural and Forest Entomology*, an international journal published by the Royal Entomological Society. The award includes a cheque for £500. Celia and three co-authors placed second in a similar selection of 2008 papers published in *Environmental Entomology* for her paper "Parasitoids and dipteran predators exploit volatiles from microbial symbionts to locate bark beetles. How does this relate to UNBC? Well, Celia recently defended her PhD dissertation at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and will be joining **Brent Murray's** lab as a post-doctoral fellow in April, so we will be able to benefit from her ability to produce high-quality research! She has worked with **Brian Aukema**, and has visited UNBC once.

CONFERENCES / TRAVEL

Oscar Garcia is travelling to Spain on 15-21 March to give a lecture at the University of Santiago de Compostela.

Phil Owens has been invited to attend a workshop entitled "Strategies for sustainable sediment management" at the US Army Engineer Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, Mississippi, 15-19 March.

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

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