



NRES WEEKLY NEWS

March 22 - 26, 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 COLLOQUIUM

This Friday

Bram Noble, PhD

Dept. of Geography & Planning, University of Saskatchewan



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

Co-sponsored by Psychology and PICS

Dr. Robert Gifford

Professor, Dept. of Psychology & Environmental Studies, University of Victoria

Next Thursday

Changing Climate Change Behaviour: Individual-level Barriers and Solutions

Most people accept that the global climate is changing and understand that their direct and indirect use of fossil fuels will have widespread effects on the environment, which in turn will lead to important impacts on humans. Nevertheless, polls also report that most people are not prepared to do very much to change their lifestyle. Why is this? Why don't our actions match our attitudes? The choices of some people are hampered by structural barriers beyond their control, but many others are challenged by psychological barriers that can be overcome. This presentation describes many of these psychological barriers, some evidence about which barriers are most common, and offers potential policy-oriented ideas and solutions for overcoming them.

Mar. 25, 2010

4:00 - 6:00 pm

Lecture Theatre 6-205

Next Friday

Ward Strong

BC Ministry of Forests and Range



Cone and Seed Pests in BC Conifer Seed Orchards: a Research Update

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Mar. 26, 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

6-205/211

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

UNBC Fish & Wildlife Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

On **Tuesday, March 30th** at 7:00 pm (Room 7-212), 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, "Canadian Wildlife: Where to", 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.

The **2nd Annual UNBC TWS Quiz Bowl** will be held on **Friday, March 26th** at **7:00 pm** in Room 8-164. This popular event is open to any undergraduate or graduate student. Please see <http://tws.unbc.ca> for more information, and email michael@unbc.ca if you would like to be a member of a team!

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>

NRES UNDERGRADUATE THESIS PRESENTATIONS

The NRES Undergraduate Thesis presentations will take place on Friday, April 9th, from 1:00— 2:30 pm in Room 5-152. The schedule for the presentations is:

1:00—1:20	Tiffany Clarke	Estimation of genome sizes for <i>Dendroctonus ponderosae</i> and <i>Ips pini</i> via three independent methods
1:20—1:40	Matt Clarke	Horn growth in mountain goats, the influences of biology and environment on rates of horn accumulation
1:40—2:00	Sophia McClair	The metabolic function of <i>Ips paraconfusus</i> Cyp4BD1 and Cyp4BG1
2:00—2:20	Rebecca Bowler	Net CO ₂ exchange of partitioned vertical layers of live vegetation following mountain pine beetle (<i>Dendroctonus ponderosae</i>) infestation in two pine dominated stands in northern BC

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

PUBLICATIONS

Akça, E., **Arocena, J.**, Kılıç, S., Dingil, M. and S. Kapur (2010) Preliminary chemical and micromorphological observations on Urartu (800-600 BC) ceramics, Eastern Turkey. *Geoarchaeology* 25: 223-244

Hesse, G., **Rea, R.V.** and **A.L. Booth** (2010) Wildlife management practices at western Canadian airports. *Journal of Air Transport Management* 16: 185-190

VISITORS

Dr. Gail Anderson, Professor, Department of Criminology, Simon Fraser University, will be on campus Thursday March 25. She will give a presentation to the BIOL 421 course, co-taught by **Hugues Massicotte** and **Staffan Lindgren**, on forensic entomology (1 pm, Room 7-150). Visitors are welcome to attend the class (there is room for an additional 20).

Dr Ward Strong, Research Entomologist at the Kalamalka Seed Orchard of the BC Ministry of Forest and Range, Vernon, BC, will visit campus March 25 and 26. Ward is responsible for managing and conducting research on various insects injurious to conifer seed crops. He will give a colloquium seminar on this topic on Friday (see announcement), and will attend a committee meeting for Tamara Richardson (Supervisor **Staffan Lindgren**) on Friday morning. Ward will be available to meet with students and faculty during his stay.

CONFERENCES / TRAVEL

Art Fredeen will be attending a PICS workshop in Victoria: "Carbon Management in the BC Forest Sector", March 22,23 2010. The workshop is asking the following questions, "What policies and management actions for BC's forests can help reduce the concentrations of GHGs in the atmosphere, what is the magnitude of reduction the forests can likely achieve, and how do proposed policies and actions compare in terms of co-benefits for other ecosystem services, biodiversity and adaptation while yielding economic value?"

Sue Grainger and **Melanie Karjala** attended the Indigenous Earth: Praxis and Transformation Conference in Penticton March 8 to 12th where they presented a paper titled "Coming Full Circle: A Case Study in Forest Co-management and the Planning Cycle".

Chris Hawkins is doing field work March 16-18 (One Island Lake, near Dawson Creek) and March 28-31 ((Fort Nelson area).

Paul Sanborn will be giving a talk on "Soil resilience and soil change: lessons from natural experiments on multiple time scales" at the annual workshop of the Pacific Regional Society of Soil Science on March 20th at UBC.

Roger Wheate gave the keynote presentation at the University of Calgary Geography Department conference, May 12. His talk was entitled "The power of geography, the magic of the north".

Jane Young attended a focus group at the Native Friendship Centre on Friday, March 12 to discuss plans for a medicinal plant garden as part of the landscaping for the BC Cancer Centre for the North.

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

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