



# NRES WEEKLY NEWS

## February 27 - March 2, 2012

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

For Elluminate information and link to the webcast: [http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi\\_webcast.html](http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html)



Mar. 2, 2012



### Dr. Ted Binnema

Professor, Dept. of History, UNBC

**Do Salmon Eat Moose?**  
**Reconstructing the BC Environment,**  
**1806-1913**



Wildlife biologists increasingly understand that management decisions relating to dwindling mountain caribou herds in British Columbia, and woodland caribou herds throughout Canada's subarctic must take into consideration the historical relationships amongst caribou, moose, and wolves. I will argue that the research must be expanded across more trophic levels in an effort to reconstruct past environments more completely. Indeed, I will argue that the population levels of caribou cannot be understood unless salmon are considered. The presentation will be based on an analysis of historical documents, including unpublished documents of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Friday, March 2, 2012

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Room: **7-212**  
**NOTE ROOM CHANGE**

Mar. 9, 2012

### Dr. Joe Shea

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, UBC / UNBC

**Glacier snowline retrieval and glacier mass change from**  
**satellite imagery**



Glaciers occupy nearly 27 000 km<sup>2</sup> of the province of BC, and glacier runoff contributes to summer streamflows in nearly every major river basin in the province. Our glaciers have lost nearly 11% of their total area between 1985 and 2005, and glacier-fed rivers are experiencing shifts in the timing and magnitude of annual runoff. It is thus important to develop regional and annual estimates of glacier mass change, which will impact water resource management, hydroelectric power generation, and sea level rise. This presentation will examine new techniques for estimating glacier mass change over large regions using remotely sensed imagery.

One indicator of glacier health is the elevation of the end-of-summer snowline, or the equilibrium line altitude (ELA). The ELA is a function of annual temperature and precipitation, and variations in the elevation of the ELA are thus related to glacier mass change. By focusing exclusively on glaciated terrain and using daily imagery from the MODIS satellites, we can accurately map daily variations in snowline, and annual variations in ELA. Using ground-based observations and MODIS-derived ELAs we test our regional mass change model on the Columbia Icefield. Future results from this project will contribute to estimates of global sea-level rise from mountain glaciers, which will likely form the largest component of sea-level rise in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Friday, March 9, 2012

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Room: 7-152

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

**PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO: Michelle Keen: [keenm@unbc.ca](mailto:keenm@unbc.ca)**

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



**Fish and Wildlife Compensation  
Program Presents:**



**Dr. Robert Lackey**

**Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife  
Oregon State University**



**Keeping Science Free of Policy Advocacy:  
A Practical Guide for Scientists**

Effectively resolving a typical natural resource or environmental policy issue requires an array of scientific information. The ability of scientists to enlighten policy deliberations and debates is diminished when what is offered as “science” is inculcated with policy preferences. The scientific enterprise is not free of values, but values that reflect forms of policy advocacy should not be permitted to prejudice scientific information. Scientific information becomes “normative” when it contains implicit policy preferences and thus, by extension, advocates particular policy options. Scientists should play their important role of informing policy discussions by providing unbiased, understandable scientific information, assessments, and forecasts. Science is important in public policy, but scientists also need to understand when it should not have a role.

**Friday, March 16, 2012**

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

**Room: 7-212  
NOTE ROOM CHANGE**

**Meet the speaker 4:30 - 5:30. Refreshments served**

### **GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE**

**Mr. Marcelo Mora is a candidate for the degree:**

**Master of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Biology)**

**Mr. Mora will be defending his thesis entitled:**

**“Assessing Population Structure and Migratory Patterns of White-Throated Sparrow  
(Zonotrichia Albicollis) Breeding Populations in Western Canada”**

**Supervisor: Dr. Brent Murray**

**Date: March 8, 2012 Time: 1:00 pm Room: 6-306**

### **ELSEWHERE**

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**GLOBAL FRIDAYS  
SENATE CHAMBERS  
12:00 - 1:30 pm**

**March 9, 2012  
Dr. Charles Menzies, UBC**

**“On the Edge of the World: Isolation and Globalization in a Breton Fishport”**

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**Dr. Richard Hebda, Curator of Botany and Earth History, Royal BC Museum**

**“The Aliens are Coming”**

**Thursday, March 1st  
7:00 pm**

**The Exploration Place (Canfor Atrium)**

The world’s climates are changing. People are disturbing and converting ecosystems worldwide. The conditions are perfect for plant and animal species to spread to new regions and degrade biodiversity, damage agricultural production and become serious nuisances.

In his illustrated talk Richard will discuss how to avoid, eliminate and control some invasive species. He will emphasize the need to reduce disturbance of the landscape and use of native species as strategies in the fight against the aliens.

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## PUBLICATIONS

Milakovic, B., **Parker, K.L.**, Gustine, D.D., Lay, R.J., Walker, A.B.D. and **M.P. Gillingham** 2012  
"Seasonal habitat use and selection by grizzly bears in northern British Columbia". *Journal of Wildlife Management* 76: 170-180

## TRAVEL / RESEARCH / CONFERENCES

**Ken Otter** is the external examiner on the PhD thesis of a student at Leiden University (Wouter Halfwerk) on 1 March. He will also be presenting work he and his graduate students are doing at a research symposium on human impacts on animal behaviour. Stephanie LaZarte (PhD NRES candidate) will also be attending and presenting her proposed PhD project.

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