



# NRES WEEKLY NEWS

## March 5 - 9, 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. 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

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

**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)



## Dr. Phil Owens

Assoc. Prof., Environmental Science and  
FRBC Research Chair in Landscape Ecology, UNBC



### Hydrological and geomorphological response of watersheds to wildfire

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Friday, March 23, 2012

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Room: 7-152

## 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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## PUBLICATIONS

Lenaerts, J.T.M., van den Broeke, M.R., **Déry, S.J.**, van Meijgaard, E., van de Berg, W.J., Palm, S.P., and J.S. Rodrigo 2012 Modeling drifting snow in Antarctica with a regional climate model, Part I: Methods and model evaluation”. *J. Geophys. Res.* 117: D05108 doi: 10.1029/2011/D016145

Wallenius, T.H., Pennanen, J. and **P.J. Burton** 2011 “Long-term decreasing trend in forest fires in northwestern Canada”. *Ecosphere* 2(5): art 53, 16 pp doi: 10.1890/ES11-00055.1 Available online at: <http://www.esajournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1890/ES11-00055.1>

## TRAVEL / RESEARCH / CONFERENCES

**Catherine Nolin** (Geography) travels to Vancouver this week to give two invited presentations. First, Catherine is presenting a research talk on Canadian mining in Guatemala in the UBC Department of Geography’s Colloquium series on Tuesday, 6 March. On 7 March, Catherine is an invited speaker as part of SFU’s “Canadian Mining and the Universities” series organized by Dr. Stephen Collis (SFU English) and co-sponsored by SFU Geography, UBC Geography, and the SFU Institute for the Humanities.

**Zoë A. Meletis** and her graduate student Nick Ehlers (MA NRES) are soon travelling to Huatulco, Mexico, to attend the International Symposium on the Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles, from 12 - 16 March. Nick will be presenting a talk entitled “Thinking outside of the beach—an interdisciplinary study of turtle tourism-related motorboat use in Tortuguero, Costa Rica”. Zoë will be presenting a talk entitled “If ‘a turtle is worth more alive than dead’, why does poaching persist? A discussion of literatures on poaching, and the persistence of sea turtle poaching in Tortuguero, Costa Rica”. Zoë is on the Program Committee for the Symposium, helps to run a networking activity called Speed Chatting with Sea Turtle Experts, and is also a judge for the Archie Carr Award for Best Student Papers.

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