



# NRES WEEKLY NEWS

## March 19 - 23, 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. 23, 2012

## Dr. Phil Owens

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



### Hydrological and geomorphological response of watersheds to wildfire

Wildfires represent one of the major natural disturbances within forested landscapes and have implications for the quality and function of downstream aquatic ecosystems and water resources. Given the anticipated increase in the number and severity of wildfires associated with future climate changes and associated human activities, there is a requirement to investigate landscape responses to wildfire in contrasting environments. This has been identified as an important resource need within the watershed and forest management communities. From a hydrological and geomorphological perspective, there is a research interest in how wildfire-affected landscapes respond and recover to such disturbance events, including: the role of the wildfire event itself; and how subsequent hydrometeorological and vegetation changes influence post-fire processes. This presentation will describe work examining the hydrological and geomorphological response of Fishtrap watershed, near Kamloops, to the 2003 McLure wildfire. The talk will focus on water flows and sediment fluxes over the period 2004 to 2011, but will also discuss changes in channel morphology. Findings suggest that the response is not just a function of the severity of the wildfire.

Friday, March 23, 2012

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Room: 7-152

### SPECIAL NRESi PRESENTATION

#### The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area

Wednesday, March 28, 2012  
Weldwood Theatre (7-238)  
7:00 - 9:00 pm

The MK Management Area (M-KMA) of northern BC covers 6.4 million hectares and is globally important for its wilderness, wildlife and cultures. The M-KMA includes approximately 25% Protected Areas, which will not see any industrial development, and 75% Resource Management Zones, which allow for the use of resources (timber, minerals, oil and gas) as long as wildlife, cultures, and the ecosystems on which they depend are maintained. Today's challenge is to keep the integrity of the land base even as alterations are made to it to meet the world's demand for renewable and non-renewable resources.

This special event will feature opening remarks by the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board (M-KAB) Chair, followed by a screening of the DVD entitled "**The Muskwa-Kechika—A Delicate Balance**". There will then be a brief presentation highlighting multiple values in the M-KMA, the issues, the opportunities and challenges. The event will conclude with a discussion between the audience and M-KAB members.

**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:Michelle.Keen@unbc.ca)

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



## GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

Ms. Heather Klassen is a candidate for the degree:

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

Ms. Klassen will be defending her thesis entitled:

**“Potential Impacts of Climate Change in Dry Coastal Ecosystems of British Columbia”**

Supervisor: **Dr. Phil Burton**

Date: **April 4, 2012** Time: 9:00 am Room: Senate Chambers

### 2012 NRES-Related Undergraduate Thesis Presentations

The annual Undergrad Thesis presentations will be held on **Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup>** from **1:00 - 3:00 pm** in **Senate Chambers**. This is a great opportunity to see what students have been doing for their thesis research. Each presentation will be approximately 15 minutes long with 5 minutes for questions. Coffee, tea, and pastries will be provided by the NRES Institute.

TIME	PRESENTER	THESIS TITLE	SUPERVISOR(S)	2ND READER
1:00-1:20	Luke Spooner	Determining the presence of postzygotic mating barriers and extra-pair paternity in <i>Dendroctonus ponderosa</i>	Brent Murray	Keith Egger
1:20-1:40	Kelly Hrywkiw	Spatial genetics of an alpine willow ( <i>Salix reticulata</i> ) in Northern BC	Brent Murray	Kathy Lewis
1:40-2:00	Darcie Powell	The implications of vegetation management on caribou and moose	Roy Rea Chris Johnson	Ken Child
2:00-2:20	James Jones	Growth responses of <i>Drosera capensis</i> to low, medium and high applications of calcium chloride, magnesium chloride and potassium bicarbonate	Art Fredeen Hugues Massicotte	Jane Young

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### ELSEWHERE

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

**March 23, 2012**

**Kristen Hopewell, Department of Sociology, University of Michigan**

**“New Protagonists in Global Economic Governance:  
Brazilian Agribusiness at the WTO”**

All Global Friday presentations will be available to remote participants at: <http://bit.ly/unbc-clt2012>

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## ELSEWHERE (cont'd)

Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) webcast presentation

**Storyomics: Proof that Scientists Evolved from Humans - presented by Randy Olson, filmmaker and author of *Don't be Such a Scientist***

**Monday, March 26, 2012  
Room 7-158  
3:30 - 4:30 pm**

According to Randy Olson, many scientists suffer from 'storyphobia' (the irrational fear of 'storytelling'), and he worries that this is a dangerous malady in an age of information-overload. A former marine biologist, Dr. Olson is a writer/director who lives and works in Los Angeles. His work focuses on the challenges involved in communicating science to the general public, and the current attacks on mainstream science in fields such as evolution and climate science. Olson argues that it's time for scientists to admit their human ancestry, realize there is no such science as 'storyomics' that will instantly solve the challenge of effective communication, and learn the age-old storytelling techniques that humans have used since before the time of pipettes.

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**90 Years of Forest Research - presented by Harry Coates**

**Tuesday, March 27, 2012  
Central Interior Railway & Forestry Museum  
Reception 6:00 - 7:00, Lecture 7:00 - 8:00**

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Presented by the UNBC Outdoor Recreation & Tourism Management Program and the Prince George Naturalist Club

**Pink Mountain - presented by Ron Long**

**Thursday, March 29, 2012  
Weldwood Theatre (7-238)  
7:30 pm**

Pink Mountain, 180 km NW of Fort St. John, stands apart from its surroundings due to its unique geology. The summit supports an assemblage of arctic/alpine plants that simply does not occur anywhere else. Many of these plants are rare and many more are rarely seen and are never seen in the combination and numbers that are found on Pink Mountain. But now commercial development threatens this unique habitat and it could all be lost within a year. The talk will discuss the area's birds, insects, animals and especially the plants and their fascinating adaptations to an extreme environment. Then we move on to the threat and a possible alternative.

**Ron Long** was a photographer at Simon Fraser University for thirty-six years. Now retired, Ron travels extensively on plant hunting trips around the world and closer to home. He is Vice-President of the Native Plant Society of BC and leads photography workshops in the Lower Mainland.

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## CONGRATULATIONS

Nick R. Ehlers (MA NRES candidate) won the Archie Carr Student Award for Runner-Up Best Conservation Oral Presentation at the International Sea Turtle Symposium, in Huatulco, Mexico, 13-16 March. His presentation, co-authored with **Zoë A. Meletis**, was entitled "Thinking outside of the beach—An interdisciplinary study of turtle tourism-related motorboat use, in Tortuguero, Costa Rica".

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## PUBLICATIONS

Jost, G., Moore, R.D., **Menounos, B.**, and **R. Wheate** 2012 “Quantifying the contribution of glacier runoff to streamflow in the Columbia River Basin, Canada”. *Hydrology and Earth System Science* 16, 849-860

Robertson, Susan J., **Rutherford, Michael P.**, López-Gutiérrez, Juan C., and **Hugues B. Massicotte** 2012 “Biochar enhances seedling growth and alters root symbioses and properties of sub-boreal forest soils”. *Can. J. Soil Sci.* 92: 329-340

## TRAVEL / RESEARCH / CONFERENCES

Jessica Shapiro (MA NRES, supervisor: **Dave Connell**) was one of four UNBC graduate students to attend the CONFOR West 2012 conference in Canmore, AB, held ‘by graduate students, for graduate students’. The theme of the conference was “Integrating Environment, Society and Economy”. Jessica won “Best Haiku” for her entry:

I ask you, what do  
you value about those old  
trees, money or leaves?

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