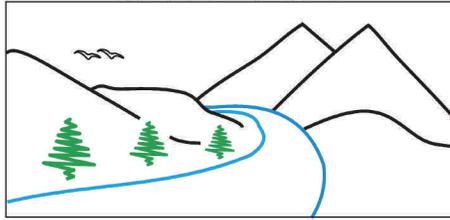


NRESi



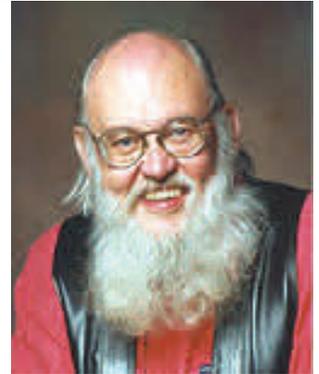
"Our environment is our future"

For **Eluminate** information and link to the webcast: http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html

RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Fred Bunnell, PhD

Professor Emeritus,
Dept. of Forest Sciences, UBC



Friday

Nov. 9, 2012

3:30 - 4:30

LECTURE THEATRE

7 - 152

DON QUIXOTE SEEKS BIODIVERSITY AND COLLIDES WITH REALITY — WHY AREN'T WE DOING BETTER?

I ignored climate change in our research program on sustaining biodiversity until 2004, when I could ignore it no longer. We have since documented that bird species are arriving earlier, leaving later, overwintering more, expanding ranges northward, shifting relative density northwards and raising second clutches when they formerly raised one. These changes significantly alter management options. They all occurred between the 1960s and 1990s, the period termed 'climate normal' by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Habitats are faring no better. Alpine tundra and small wetlands are disappearing, forests and grasslands are morphing, rivers aren't functioning as they used to, and the ocean is downright scary (as in Washington and Oregon, larval oysters in BC can no longer consistently build shells; nude oysters don't survive). All that is startling enough that the question — Why aren't we doing better? — was unavoidable. Answers to that convinced me my time was better spent in activism than doing more research.