



NRESi WEEKLY NEWS

April 27 - May 1, 2015

A newsletter for faculty, staff, students and the community
who participates in the
Natural Resources & Environmental Studies Institute
and NRES Graduate Programs

NRESi NOTES

FROM THE DIRECTOR & RESEARCH MANAGER

Hello everyone,

Happy end of semester! Hopefully, with the end of exams and spring upon us, you are all looking forward to more relaxing days and the summer ahead!

NRESi had its **Annual General Meeting** this week, with 15 members in attendance. The event provided an opportunity to look at what was accomplished in 2014-2015 and ahead to activities in the new fiscal year. Members were also able to give their feedback and ideas, that we will work to incorporate into our planning and activities. For members who weren't able to attend, the minutes will be circulated in the coming weeks. Any comments, suggestions and feedback you have for NRESi are welcome anytime to Darwyn, myself, or any member of the Steering Committee.

We are happy to announce that **NRESi has a new member!** Dr. Nikolaus Gantner, an Adjunct Professor in the Environmental Science Program at UNBC, has joined NRESi as an Associate Member. More information about his research will be posted to NRESi's website shortly. Welcome, Nikolaus!

We had an excellent **Undergraduate Thesis Presentation Day** yesterday! There were presentations made by 14 students from a range of programs and they were all very well done! Thanks to everyone who came to support our students; there were over 50 people who came to the event.

For those of you in the **Fort St. John** area, **NRESi is hosting a second public lecture** in partnership with the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program - Peace. We also thank the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC Peace River Branch for their time and support for this event. It will take place on **Thursday, May 7th starting at 7pm in the Lido Theatre (10156 100 Ave., Fort St John, BC)**. **Dr. Dale Seip** will be doing his presentation titled: **Ongoing Declines of Caribou Populations in BC & the Challenges of Caribou Recovery**. It's an open event and all are welcome to attend! The presentation is geared to a range of audiences, including biologists, landscape managers, and the general public. Please let others know who may be interested.

NRESi, together with the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, are organizing a **Special Lecture next Friday, May 8th from 12pm-1:30pm in the Bentley Centre**. We will hear a presentation by **Dr. Richard Hobbs** titled: **Dealing with Dragons: Deciding If, When and How to Intervene in Ecosystems in a Rapidly Changing World**. Thanks to support from PICS, lunch will be provided. [Livestream](#) will be available for remote participants and the lecture will be posted to NRESi's video archive. See you there!

Have a great weekend!

Leanne Elliott, NRESi Research Manager



Above: Some of the presenters from yesterday's Undergraduate Thesis event.

Left to right: Nick Dormaar, Daemon Cline, Emily Yurkowski, Kirsten Reimer, Linda Horianopoulos, Katherine Benny, and Hannah Zimmerman.

Photo Credit: UNBC Communications

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

PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO: leanne.elliott@unbc.ca

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

COMING EVENTS

NRESi SPECIAL LECTURE

In Partnership with:



Dr. Dale Seip
B.C. Ministry of Environment

Ongoing Declines of Caribou Populations in British Columbia and the Challenges of Caribou Recovery



Woodland caribou populations across much of British Columbia are declining. Research and monitoring has shown that the primary cause of decline is excessive predation by wolves, bears and cougars. Although caribou populations co-existed with natural predators for thousands of years in the past, today those same predators are driving caribou to extinction. It appears that habitat changes due to industrial activities, and likely exacerbated by climate change, have created a landscape where caribou cannot co-exist with natural predators. Creation of early seral habitat by forestry and other industrial activities can enhance numbers of moose, elk and deer, leading to an increase in the distribution and abundance of wolves, bears and cougars on caribou range. Several studies have shown declining caribou numbers are associated with increased amounts of industrial activity on their range. Although protecting and recovering habitat is the ultimate solution to recovering caribou populations it would take decades for habitat recovery to occur. In the short term, directly managing the predator prey system with predator control, moose management or captive rearing is likely necessary to prevent ongoing declines and local extirpation of caribou herds.

Thursday, MAY 7th, 2015

7pm

Location: Lido Theatre, 10156 100 Ave., Fort St. John, BC

UPCOMING EVENTS

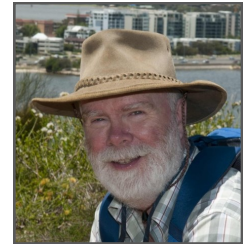
NRESi SPECIAL LECTURE

In partnership with:



Pacific Institute
for Climate Solutions
Knowledge. Insight. Action.

Dr. Richard Hobbs
School of Plant Biology
University of Western Australia



Dealing with dragons: deciding if, when and how to intervene in ecosystems in a rapidly changing world

Rapid, extensive and ongoing environmental change increasingly demands that humans intervene in ecosystems to maintain or restore ecosystem services and biodiversity. At the same time the basic principles and tenets of restoration ecology and conservation biology are being debated and reshaped. Escalating global change is resulting in widespread no-analog environments and novel ecosystems that may render traditional goals unachievable. Such systems pose immense challenges scientifically and ethically, and also from a practical and policy perspective. Policy makers and the general public often hold onto traditional conservation approaches and have embraced restoration as a means to achieve static conservation goals, without an understanding of the limitations to restoration.

What concrete advice can be given to managers and policy makers? I argue that there is a need to focus on meaningful interventions in ecosystems, and in particular deciding on when and how to intervene (or not), and why, in relation to both traditional conservation goals and alternative goals based not only on species and biodiversity but also on function and resilience. Interventions include altering the biotic and abiotic structures and processes within ecosystems and changing social and policy settings. Interventions can be aimed at leverage points, both within ecosystems and in the broader social system, particularly feedback loops that either maintain a particular state or precipitate a rapid change from one state to another.

Friday, MAY 8th, 2015

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
Room: Bentley Centre

Lunch will be Provided

To participate remotely on Livestream: http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html

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OTHER UNBC EVENTS OF INTEREST

Competing Ideals in Open Space Planning

Dr. Barbara Andersen - Candidate for Tenure-Track Position in ENPL

Wednesday, May 6th, 2015

3:30pm – 4:30pm

Conference Center 6-307

One of the ways to understand open space preservation is by placing it in context culturally and economically, and by assessing recent ballot initiatives to conserve open space. With a focus on the U.S. Pacific Northwest, this research examined those issues through a social science lens and aims at determining whether public values about the environment are reflected in planning practice.

PUBLICATIONS

Clason, A., S. E. Macdonald and **S. Haeussler**. 2015. Forest response to cumulative stress and disturbance: Two decades of change in whitebark pine ecosystems of west-central British Columbia.

Ecoscience 21(2): 174-185.

** Alana Clason is a PhD student in the Natural Resources & Environmental Studies department; the above publication is from work completed during her Masters thesis.

Hernández-Henríquez, M. A., **Déry S. J.**, and Derksen, Chris. 2015. Polar amplification and elevation-dependence in trends of Northern Hemisphere snow cover extent, 1971–2014. Environmental Research Letters 10 (4). [doi:10.1088/1748-9326/10/4/044010](https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/10/4/044010)

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TRAVEL & CONFERENCES

Stephen Déry is in Montreal this week at the Canadian Network for Regional Climate and Weather Processes Science meeting. He acted as Chair one of the sessions on April 30th.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

The Quesnel River Research Centre and NRESi members (**Phil Owens & Ellen Petticrew**) involved in the research following the Mount Polley tailings pond breach provided an update eight-months after the disaster. Read the article [here](#).

UNBC FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The Green Fund program takes a broad approach to sustainability. From lighting retrofits and compost projects to social enterprises and improving food security, we welcome proposals of all sorts. We can even assist in developing your proposal.

The UNBC Green Fund provides seed grants for innovative projects designed to create a more sustainable campus. The fund was created from UNBC parking revenues and a total of \$50,000 per academic year is available to fund projects. Each semester the Green Fund looks to award 3 grants of up to \$5,000 each.

Deadline: Tuesday, May 26th

For more information - Do you want to find out more information about the Green Fund program? Look up the Green Fund website for sample ideas and application guidelines: <http://www.unbc.ca/green/green-fund>.

Have questions or need help developing your proposal? Drop by the Green University Centre or contact Kyrke Gaudreau. Kyrke.Gaudreau@unbc.ca or by phone at ext. 6623.

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GRAD STUDENT ONLINE WORKSHOP

Practical Tips on Growing your Network - Online Workshop

Start Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2015 End Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2015 **More details and registration** [here](#).

Note: Participants are required to complete their workshop within 2 weeks, and will have access to their account to review the content and exercises for one month following the end of the workshop.

Get the knowledge you need to build your network! Your Globalink Research Internship will be filled with opportunities to make connections in and outside of your field. This short online workshop will give you the information you'll need to make the most of each opportunity. Building a strong personal and professional network may be one of the single most important things you can do for your career. Learn how to plan, prepare, build and foster your network and watch opportunities unfold in front of you.

At the end of the session, you will:

- Have learned the importance of building a strong network
- Techniques on tapping into the existing network around you
- Have learned practical tips on identifying and planning networking opportunities
- Learn to strategically prepare for an upcoming event
- Have a better understanding of social networking tools available and tips on how and when to use them

Cost: This workshop, as with all Mitacs Step workshops, is free for both graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. However, the preauthorization of a valid credit card is required as part of the registration process. A \$50 penalty will be applied to all late cancellations (cancellations that are not made 5 days or more before the workshop date), no shows, or incomplete attendance. These penalties are only charged after the completion of a workshop and no charges are ever made to students who participate in full. For answers to some frequently asked questions, please visit our help page: <http://step.mitacs.ca/faq>

SUSAN STEVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

As its first project of this kind, the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute (NRESi) is building a fund to support a scholarship in memory of wildlife ecologist and NRESi member Susan Stevenson. During a 35-year career built primarily in the BC central interior, Susan designed and implemented important research and inventory projects related to mountain caribou habitat, lichen biology, and silvicultural systems, collaborating with a diverse range of researchers, and gave generously of her expertise to the next generation of scientists. Susan exemplified the Institute's values of interdisciplinary curiosity and unselfish collaboration, and enriched the lives of all those who worked and studied with her. The Institute invites you to join it in supporting the Susan Stevenson Scholarship Fund:

1. Visit UNBC Development Office's website: www.unbc.ca/giving
2. Click on the grey **Make a Gift** button
3. Enter the information requested
4. When you reach the question of **Please direct my donation to:** select **Other**
5. **Important** - In the **Comments** area, add that you would like your gift to be contributed to the **Susan Stevenson Scholarship Fund**

COLLOQUIUM ARCHIVE

Did you miss a colloquium or special lecture? Visit NRESi's webcast archive to catch up! They can be found [here](#).

ARCHIVE OF PAST EVENTS

Information, links, proceedings, and other information from past NRESi hosted and co-led events can be found at: <http://www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/special-events>. This site currently includes information about the Forest Tenure events (Annual Lecture and workshop) and a link to the Cumulative Effects Workshop site.

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