

NRESi WEEKLY NEWS

May 4 - 8, 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 Friday! For the summer, NRESi's newsletter will turn monthly, released the first Friday until September. Continue to send me your NRESi member announcements when you have them and I'll flag them for the next issue. Upcoming events of interest will be circulated as I learn of them. Want stay linked into the latest at NRESi? There's always [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)!

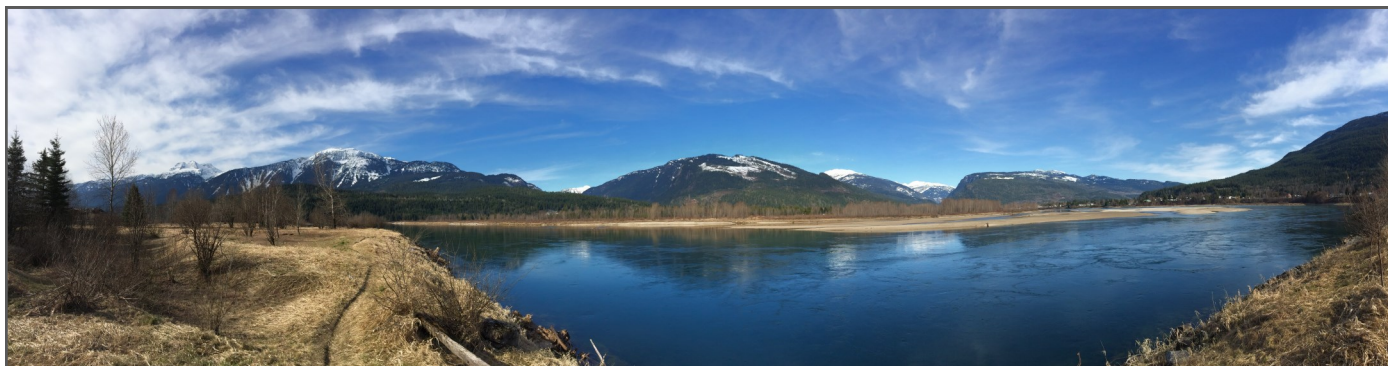
A reminder of the NRESi and the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions **Special Lecture today at noon with Dr. Richard Hobbs** from School of Plant Biology at the University of Western Australia. His talk is titled: **Dealing with Dragons: Deciding If, When and How to Intervene in Ecosystems in a Rapidly Changing World**. It will be in the Bentley Centre and available to remote participants through [Livestream](#). Lunch is provided.

I hope you enjoy this week's spring photos from around the province!

Leanne Elliott
NRESi Research Manager

Our plant biology lesson for today is courtesy of Hugues Massicotte! :) The **top right** photo is a male plant of *Shepherdia canadensis* (soopolallie) with the obvious anthers and general rusty spots coating. As it is dioecious (male and female on separate plants), you will have to find a female plant if you want to get berries...hence explaining why some plants of soopolallie do not bear fruits! Then there is aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), also a dioecious tree showing the female catkins just being initiated (**right**). It too has female and male catkins on different specimens....The males catkins are done now (and falling), but the females will continue to develop to produce the capsules later on in late June or early July. And to add to our spring photo series, you can almost touch the anticipation in the one **below**, just ready to explode! This was taken outside of Revelstoke, BC a few weeks ago; I wish I go back today to take a second photo, capturing the new life that has emerged since!

Photo credits: Top and middle right: Hugues Massicotte, below: Leanne Elliott



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

NRESi SPECIAL LECTURE

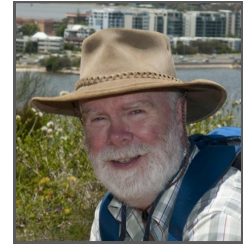
In partnership with:



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

OTHER UNBC EVENTS OF INTEREST

Social networks and climate change: What is the right connection?

Mr. Darwin Horning - Candidate for Tenure-Track Position in ENPL

Friday, May 8, 2015

2:15pm – 3:15pm

Conference Center 6-307

Among the assertions of British Columbia's new Water Sustainability Act, is that the act will establish British Columbia as a world leader in sustainable water management. There remains however, many questions pertaining to implementation, particularly at the local level. Several regions throughout British Columbia have or are in the process of developing watershed plans as a means to address a wide variety of local water related concerns including climate change.

Utilizing social network analysis, two rural water scarce regions, Similkameen Valley Watershed and the Kettle River Watershed, were investigated to better understand the social structures influencing the development of Integrated Watershed Management Plans in British Columbia. Relationships between actors and institutions play a pivotal role in the challenging task of managing water resources sustainably. These relationships form a complicated network(s) of diverse communities both within and external to the formal processes and institutions, often with competing goals and interests. A failure to understand these social underpinnings has contributed to the ongoing challenge of developing resilient, integrated water governance regimes capable of adjusting to increasing complexity and non-stationarity.

The results from this study will provide First Nations, local, provincial and federal governments with a better understanding of place-based water governance and the multi-scale fragmentation-connectivity conundrum which exists within Canada.

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PUBLICATIONS

Petticrew, E. L., Albers, S., Baldwin, S., Carmack, E. C., **Déry, S. J.**, **Gantner, N.**, Graves, K., Laval, B., Morrison, J., **Owens, P. N.**, Selbie, D. T. and Vagle, S., 2015: The impact of a catastrophic mine tailings impoundment spill into one of North America's largest fjord lake: Quesnel Lake, British Columbia, Canada, *Geophysical Research Letters*, 42, doi: 10.1002/2015GL063345.

TRAVEL & CONFERENCES

Zoe Meletis (Geography; NRES) recently had the pleasure of traveling to Dalaman, Turkey, so that she and two of her graduate students could successfully deliver the following presentations. A great and productive time was had by all, partly thanks to UNBC graduate student funding and UNBC Conference Travel Grant:

1. Aiki Panagopoulou (*Drexel University*), **Zoë A. Meletis**, Dimitris Margaritoulis, and James R. Spotila (2015). *Who is fishing who? Survey research as a means of gaining insights into small-scale fisheries interactions with sea turtles*. International Symposium on the Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles. Dalaman, Turkey. April 19-26. **Awarded on site: Archie Carr Runner-up Best Student Conservation Paper award** (for the second consecutive year!)
2. Cherise Chrispen, and **Zoë A. Meletis** (2015). *Conservation and Consumption- Conflicted and confusing bedfellows in sea turtle conservation*. International Symposium on the Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles. Dalaman, Turkey. April 19-26, 2015.
3. **Zoë A. Meletis** (2015). *Seeking to satisfy 6—Considering the case of nascent sea turtle tourism development in Martinique, France. Conceptualizing sea turtle tourism to satisfy: tourists; local people; industry actors; conservationists; and sea turtles—can it be done?* International Symposium on the Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles. Dalaman, Turkey. April 19-26, 2015.

Paul Sanborn is working at the Calvert Island field station of the Hakai Institute May 4-19, preparing for a digital soil mapping project involving ~ 7000 hectares of research watersheds on Calvert and Hecate Islands. This work will involve collaborators from the BC Forest Service, and Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada.

Phil Mullins is attending the Thinking Mountain Conference - Interdisciplinary Mountain Studies Conference in Jasper National Park from May 5 - 8.

Hugues Massicotte, Linda Tackaberry and **Keith Egger** are attending the "Western Mycorrhizal Gathering" in Cowichan Lake Research Station, Vancouver Island, on May 7-10. Hugues and Linda were also invited to explore several Garry Oak ecosystems for truffle diversity a couple of days before the meeting.



Two photos taken by Hugues Massicotte during their exploration of the Garry Oak ecosystem. Beautiful!



AWARDS

Marli Bodhi (MA, NRES-- Environmental Studies; co-supervised by Annie Booth and **Zoë Meletis**) was recently awarded both a BC Real Estate Fund award and a UNBC Office of Graduate Programs Research Project Award (RPA), to help support the fieldwork for her Masters project: *Warming Up to Food Security? Examining Intersections Between Municipal-Level Planning for Food Security and Climate Change in Northern British Columbia*. CONGRATULATIONS!

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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

The group of researchers, including NRESi members **Ellen Petticrew, Stephen Déry, Nikolaus Gantner, and Phil Owens**, received a wide range of coverage this week on their investigation into the impacts following the Mount Polley tailings pond disaster (see report reference in this newsletter's Publications section). The UNBC press release is [here](#).

A video of the press conference presenting the findings so far can be found [here](#), with presentations from **Ellen Petticrew, Stephen Déry, and Phil Owens**.

Here are links to just some of the media that reported on their research results:

- [CBC The National](#)
- [CBC News](#)
- [Globe and Mail](#)
- [Yahoo News](#)
- [Vancouver Sun](#)
- [CBC Radio-Canada](#) article (in French)
- [CBC Radio Daybreak North](#) (interview with **Nikolaus Gantner**)
- [Prince George Citizen](#)
- [CKPG News](#) (includes interview with **Nikolaus Gantner**)
- [Mining Innovation](#)

Did you know that when **Stephen Déry** was a PhD student at McGill University, he initiated the forming of Workgroup on Homophobia? Being part of the McGill Senate and the McGill Joint Senate/Board Committee on Equity and after recognizing the need for a place to address these issues, he requested and participated in the forming of this working group. It looked at defining and evaluating homophobia on campus and options to overcome the challenges identified. This group has evolved since its first meeting in 2001 and has many accomplishments to its credit. Read more [here](#).

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Ecohealth in Action Weblogue

Wednesday May 20, 2015 at 12:30-2:00pm

"Beyond the Rhetoric of Climate Change: seeking emergent action(s)"

Dr. Sue Pollock, Medical Health Officer with Interior Health in British Columbia

Science and social action provide the greatest hope for a meaningful response to the challenges to planetary health in the face of global climate change. The forces of denial and indifference can be daunting when confronted by individual actors and even collective actions in the many realms and sectors that are attempting an intelligent response. However, as the forces of selfish globalization begin to fray and show their limitations it is timely to work towards emergent behaviour on the part of the constructive forces building towards an alternative, more hopeful future for the generations to come. This convergence can, indeed must, lead to collaborations that become more than the sum of their parts. Today's weblogue features actors and tools that are consciously working towards that convergence while at the same time building organizational responses at scales from the local to the global. Participants will be called upon to reflect on opportunities and mechanisms to foster convergence of such forces as public health and Ecohealth—at both personal and organizational levels.

You can REGISTER for this weblogue by visiting: <http://ecohealthkta.net/weblogue-registration-may/>

For more information on this event, past and future weblogues please visit: <http://ecohealthkta.net/>

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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.

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>

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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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