



NRESi Bi-WEEKLY NEWS

February 15 - February 26, 2016

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

NRESi NOTES

FROM THE RESEARCH MANAGER

Hello folks

Hope that everyone had a good reading week break and is all rested up and ready for the home stretch of the winter semester. Our first colloquium speaker after the break is Dr. Nancy Turner from the University of Victoria who will be speaking about her ethnobotany career. The following Friday, Dr. David Connell will be giving a critical assessment on the use of landuse planning to protect farmland in northern BC. And for those of you in the Mackenzie area, on Thursday, February 25, Dexter Hodder is going to be presenting the first in our series of three Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP)-funded colloquia at the Mackenzie Rec Centre. Dexter is going to be presenting a case study from the John Prince Research Forest on the use of meso-carnivores (Lynx, Otter, Marten and Mink) as a measure of change in forest ecosystems.

Al Wiensczyk, RPF
Research Manager, NRESi

UPCOMING EVENTS

NRESi COLLOQUIUM

The winter colloquium session continues with a presentation by Dr. Nancy Turner on the 19th of February followed on February 26th with a presentation by Dr. David Connell. Watch for announcements closer to the lectures confirming the presenter and topic. Lectures for the winter semester will be held in room 7-212.

TENTATIVE WINTER COLLOQUIUM SCHEDULE

Presentation Date	Tentative Presenter and/or Topic
Feb 19, 2016	Dr. Nancy Turner, Distinguished Professor and Hakai professor in Ethnoecology, School of Environmental Studies, University of Victoria. A Mutual Love of Plants. Collaborative Community-based Research in Ethnobotany in British Columbia.
Feb 26, 2016	Dr. David Connell—Associate Professor—Ecosystems Science and Management—UNBC. Protecting farmland in Northern BC through land use planning: A critical assessment.
Mar 4, 2016	Craig DeLong, Senior Ecologist, Ecora Resource Group Ltd. The good, the bad, and the future.
Mar 11, 2016	Jewel Yurkewich, Forest Pathologist, BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.
Mar 18, 2016	Dr. Anne Salomon, Associate Professor and Hakai Professor, School of Resource and Environment Management, Simon Fraser University

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

TENTATIVE WINTER COLLOQUIUM SCHEDULE (con't)

Presentation Date	Tentative Presenter and/or Topic
Tuesday, Mar 22, 2016	Dr. Andrew Watson, Post-doctoral fellow, Department of History, University of Saskatchewan
Apr 1, 2016	Dr. Francesco Berna, Geoarchaeologist, Simon Fraser University. Archaeological research at Wonderwerk Cave, South Africa.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NRESi COLLOQUIUM

Dr. Nancy Turner

**Distinguished Professor and Hakai professor in Ethnoecology,
School of Environmental Studies,
University of Victoria**



Photo credit: UVic photo services

[A mutual love of plants. Collaborative community-based research in Ethnobotany in British Columbia](#)

I started working in the field of ethnobotany as an undergraduate student in the late 1960's. At that time there were few guidelines in place on how to work with Indigenous knowledge holders and communities in ways that were mutually supportive and collaborative. I provide a few examples and learning experiences from my own journey, now spanning over 45 years, and discuss some of the changes and some of the lessons I have learned. In particular, I will introduce some of my teachers who shared their knowledge with me, and reflect on the future of ethnobotany and ethnoecology as fields of study.

Friday, Feb 19th, 2016

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Room: 7-212

To participate remotely: <http://www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/colloquium-webcasts>

UPCOMING EVENTS

NRESi COLLOQUIUM

Dr. David Connell

Associate Professor - Ecosystems Science and Management - UNBC



[Protecting farmland in Northern BC through Land Use Planning: A Critical Assessment.](#)

British Columbia has a progressive legislative framework that protects farmland and governs the Agricultural Land Reserve. On this basis, one might assume that farmland in BC would be protected strongly and equally among all local jurisdictions. This is not the case. The state of agricultural land use planning to protect farmland in northern BC is of moderate strength overall, with significant differences among and within the Regional Districts. The diversity of approaches makes for an interesting mix of policies that deal with the typical pressures of urban development and non-farm uses, as well as the pressures of natural resource developments, such as forestry and oil and gas. In this presentation I will discuss the state of farmland protection in northern BC by drawing upon four principles of land use planning: maximise stability, integrate public priorities across jurisdictions, minimise uncertainty, and accommodate flexibility. Project website: <http://blogs.unbc.ca/agplanning/>

Friday, Feb 26th, 2016

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Room: 7-212

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Canadian Institute of Forestry: Electronic Lecture Series:

Current Issues and Emerging Technologies in Canada's forests

Date/Time	Title	Presenter(s)
February 24, 2016 10:30 am PST	The effect of mountain pine beetle on mid-term timber supply in BC.	Atmo Prasad - Manager of Forest Analysis and Data Management, BC Government
March 2, 2016 10:30 am PST	Steep slope harvesting in Western Canada	Dzhamal Amishev - Researcher, Harvesting Operations, FPInnovations
March 9, 2016 10:30 am PST	An Update on the Canadian Forest Service's work to accelerate renewable natural gas in Canada	Dominique Auger - Policy Analyst, CFS, NRCan
March 16, 2016 10:30 am PST	Getting a closer look at your operations with drones.	Denis Cormier - Research Manager, Silvicultural Operations and Remote Sensing, FPInnovations
March 23, 2016 10:30 am PST	Pucks and sticks score more goals in oil sands reclamation	Richard Krygier - Research Project leader, CFS-CWFC
March 30, 2016 10:30 am PST	Cruising & surfing through the forest: Developing innovative technologies & virtual tours to promote forestry research	Brent Joss - GIS Analyst, FCS-CWFC

All electronic lectures are free. Your consideration of CIF/IFC membership would be appreciated. To become a CIF/IFC member: www.cif-ifc.org/membership-content/become-a-member/
www.cif-ifc.org/e-lectures/

For additional information or to register, contact:

Svetlana Zeran (CIF/IFC) E-mail: lectures@cif-ifc.org Tel: 705-744-1715 ext. 530

The West in the 21st Century - Legacies and Trajectories: Western Division of Canadian Association of Geographers Conference—March 11-12, 2016—UNBC Prince George

We invite our NRESi colleagues to register and participate in our upcoming conference.

Conference Program and other details: <http://resweb.res.unbc.ca/wd-cag2016/index.htm>

Early bird registration deadline: **Friday, February 19th**

Great deal for undergrads & grad students (\$50) and exciting field tips also available: <http://resweb.res.unbc.ca/wd-cag2016/fieldtrips%20and%20workshop.htm>

UPCOMING EVENTS

NRESi/FWCP COLLOQUIUM

Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program Colloquium Series

Below is the tentative schedule for the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program-sponsored Colloquium series.

Presentation Date	Location	Tentative Speaker/Topic
Thursday, Feb 25, 2016	Mackenzie Recreation Centre, Mackenzie, BC	Using meso-carnivores as a measure of change in forest ecosystems: A case study from the John Prince Research Forest (JPFR). Dexter Hodder, John Prince Research Forest
Friday, Mar 4, 2016	LIDO Theatre, Fort St John, BC	A Tale of 3 fish: a migrant, an invader, and a resident. Dr. Mark Shrimpton, University of Northern British Columbia
Monday, Mar 21, 2016	Room 7-212, UNBC, Prince George, BC	Local through global influences on mercury in fish. Dr. Karen Kidd, University of New Brunswick



This project is funded by the **Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program** on behalf of its program partners **BC Hydro**, the **Province of BC**, **First Nations** and the **public**, who work together to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife impacted by existing BC Hydro dams.

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Dexter Hodder
John Prince Research Forest



Using meso-carnivores as a measure of change in forest ecosystems: A case study from the John Prince Research Forest (JPRF)

To understand the impacts of human activities on forest ecosystems, we need to identify species that are likely to respond to potential changes (indicator species). When designing long-term monitoring programs, we must ensure that these indicator species can be measured with adequate precision given the sampling intensity (spatial and temporal) necessary for the study design. For the monitoring program to be successful, these species must have a high probability of detection using common and cost effective techniques and reflect a range of ecological processes. In addition, the design must have adequate control or reference areas available to provide benchmark metrics and be representative of a wide geographic area. Meso-carnivores, as a group, have exhibited severe declines as human disturbances have increased in North America. While these animals can be widespread, common, and utilize relatively small spatial scales, they respond to ecosystem changes at both stand and landscape levels. In the JPRF, we have been focusing on four meso-carnivore species as part of our monitoring program; Northern River Otter, American Mink, American Marten, and Canada Lynx. Preliminary results suggest that these animals have different niche habitat associations and their distributions may be affected by their interactions with each other.



Thursday, Feb 25th, 2016

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

**Mackenzie Rec Centre
 Mackenzie, BC**

Dr. Mark Shrimpton

Professor, University of Northern British Columbia



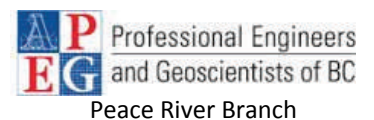
A Tale of three fish: A migrant, an invader, and a resident.

The Williston Reservoir was created in 1968 following the construction of the WAC Bennett Dam and impounding the Peace River. The suitability of Williston Reservoir for fish habitat is unclear – but the response of three different species of fish provides us with some insight into the role of the reservoir as potential habitat. Arctic grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*) are a highly migratory fluvial species that use different habitat throughout their life history. We used elemental signatures in otoliths to track movements of grayling and our work revealed that grayling are restricted to rivers flowing into the reservoir. Modeling locations where grayling are found indicated that large rivers are needed for juvenile Arctic grayling – habitat similar to that lost when the reservoir was flooded. In an attempt to increase productivity of the reservoir, over 3,000,000 Kokanee (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) were stocked in the 1990s. The present distribution and abundance of Kokanee in tributaries to the Williston Reservoir poorly reflects the stocking patterns, but the large numbers of Kokanee have the potential to dramatically affect the flow of nutrients in rivers where they spawn due to their semelparous life history. The slimy sculpin (*Cottus cognatus*) is a putative resident species, however, otolith signatures for this species also reveal considerable movement within river systems. Our work has demonstrated that fish exhibit habitat shifts during development and also migrate seasonally among habitats. Understanding habitat requirements for fish in natural systems is important for effective management, particularly in areas affected by anthropogenic disturbance.

Friday, Mar 4th, 2016

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

**LIDO Theatre
 Fort St John, BC**



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UPCOMING EVENTS

NRESi/FWCP COLLOQUIUM

Dr. Karen Kidd

**Biology Department & Canadian Rivers Institute
University of New Brunswick, Saint John, NB**



Local through global influences on mercury in fish

Freshwater fishes are highly variable in their concentrations of mercury, even within a region. Some of the among-system differences can be explained by the biological traits of the fish (growth, diet, lifespan), and the chemical, geological, and physical characteristics of the systems. However, human activities such as reservoir creation, electricity generation, and gold mining also result in both locally contaminated areas and increases in the global cycling of mercury to remote locations. High dietary exposure to the organic form of mercury, methylmercury, is known to affect the nervous system and reproduction in fish-eating wildlife and humans, and the fish themselves. As the Minamata Convention to reduce the global trade, use and emissions of mercury comes into force, we should see declines in mercury in fish and reductions in risks to fish consumers but the rate of this decline is unclear. This presentation will describe the local through global processes that drive mercury in fish, how this contaminant may respond to climate change, and what we still do not understand about its fate in freshwaters. I will describe our comparisons of lake ecosystems from the Arctic and temperate regions of Canada and put this research into a global context.

**Monday, Mar 21st,
2016**

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

**Room 7-212, UNBC
Prince George, BC**

To participate remotely: <http://www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/colloquium-webcasts>

IN THE NEWS

Greg Halseth quoted extensively in this CBC piece:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/fort-mcmurray-boom-to-bust-below-the-surface-1.3443798>

"According to **Greg Halseth**, a specialist in the rise and fall — and rise again — of one-industry communities, keeping hope alive is crucial as Fort McMurray's economy goes off the boil. He says the damage of a long, slow decline is psychological as well as economic. Halseth, who holds a prestigious Canada Research Chair at the University of Northern British Columbia, says boom-and-bust communities share some common vulnerabilities that go back to the fur trade. They depend on the health and changing values of a much bigger market. "Canada, as a resource-exporting nation, is what's called by economists a 'price taker,'" says Halseth. "We don't set the price for oil. We don't set the price for copper or gold or any of those things."

<http://www.hakaimagazine.com/article-long/whale-dying-mountain>

By JB Mckinnon — quotes **Brian Menounos** extensively:

"If you want to see them, see them now," says **Brian Menounos**, a glaciologist with the University of Northern British Columbia and leader of the project I joined in the aircraft. Menounos is surveying coastal glaciers in western North America using LiDAR, a detection system that measures the distance from an overhead aircraft to a glacier's surface by firing a laser up to 380,000 times per second, then capturing its light-speed bounceback in a mirror." ... "Menounos says he would be surprised if Vancouver Island—the largest island on the west coast of North America, and currently polka-dotted with what is marked on maps as "permanent snow and ice"—still had glaciers beyond 2060. If you find that hard to believe, consider the fact that what is now Glacier National Park, just stateside across the Canada-US border in the Rocky Mountains, had 150 glaciers in the mid-1800s and has 25 today. In 2003, scientists predicted the park would have no permanent ice by 2030; the same scientists later said that the ice could vanish in the next five years."

NRESi supporter Mike Nash shared a video he made of an active ant colony in Prince George—in February!!

Climate Antics: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O15LQrAfU8c&feature=youtu.be>

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PUBLICATIONS

Mishra, V. and R. Lilhare. 2016. Hydrologic sensitivity of Indian sub-continental river basins to climate change. *Global and Planetary Change* 139:78-96. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0921818116300145>

Mullins P. M. (2015). Getting Into It: Qualitative Research in Outdoor Recreation. *International Leisure Review*, 4(2), 56–82. <http://doi.org/10.6298/ILR.2015.4.12>

Mullins, P. M., Lowan-Trudeau, G., & Fox, K. (2016). Healing the split head of outdoor recreation and outdoor education: revisiting Indigenous knowledge from multiple perspectives. In B. Humberstone, H. Prince, & K. A. Henderson (Eds.), *Routledge handbook of Outdoor Studies* (pp. 49–58). New York: Routledge.

Porter, T.J., D.G. Froese, S.J. Feakins, I.N. Bindeman, M.E. Mahony, B.G. Pautler, G.-J. Reichart, P.T. Sanborn, M.J. Simpson, and J.W.H. Weijers. 2016. Multiple water isotope proxy reconstruction of extremely low last glacial temperatures in Eastern Beringia (Western Arctic). *Quaternary Science Reviews* 137: 113-125.

Ryser, L., S. Markey, and G. Halseth. 2016. The workers' perspective: The impacts of long distance labour commuting in a northern Canadian small town. *The Extractives Industries and Society*. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214790X16300120>

IN THE NEWS

(Government press releases)

Mary Thomas lectures preserve Secwepemc culture.

Feb 15, 2016—Salmon Arm. Louis Thomas remembers his mother as a tireless advocate of First Nations culture, language and history. That's why he's thrilled that Mary Thomas's lectures have been preserved for posterity at Voice of the Shuswap community radio, CKVS-FM 93.7. [For more details...](#)

Moose winter tick surveillance program needs your help.

Feb 15, 2016—Victoria. Members of the public are being asked to help document moose winter tick infestations by completing and submitting an online Moose Winter Tick Survey before April 30, 2016. [For more details...](#)

Tsilqot'in and B.C. sign historic accord.

Feb 12, 2016—Vancouver. The B.C. government and the Tsilhqot'in Nation have signed a five-year framework agreement that establishes a shared vision, principles and structures to negotiate a comprehensive and lasting reconciliation between the Nation and the Province. [For more details...](#)

Province creates community forest near Burns Lake.

Feb 12, 2016—Burns Lake. The creation of a new community forest near the Village of Burns Lake will help promote economic stability and employment opportunities, and enhance the ability for local forest stewardship, announced MLA for Nechako Lakes, John Rustad, today, on behalf of Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Steve Thomson. [For more details...](#)

Factsheet: International students in BC.

Feb 11, 2016—Victoria. Canada enrolls 5% of internationally mobile students, while B.C. hosts almost one third of the international students in Canada. International students bring social, economic and cultural benefits to communities, schools and institutions in B.C. [For more details...](#)

Land transfers build opportunity on road to treaty.

Feb 5, 2016—Vancouver. Land transfers under incremental treaty agreements with British Columbia will open new economic opportunities to four First Nation communities in the Cariboo. [For more details...](#)

Industrial Greenhouse Gas Emission reports now available for 2014.

Feb 5, 2016—Victoria. Since the introduction of the Climate Action Plan in 2008, British Columbia has been recognized as a world leader in the fight against climate change, showing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions can be reduced while the economy continues to grow. [For more details...](#)

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IN THE NEWS (con't)

(Government press releases)

BC researchers benefit from \$6 million in Mitacs funding from Ministry of Advanced Education.

Feb 5, 2016—Victoria. The next generation of talent will have the opportunity to do research on real-world projects as a result of \$6M in government funding for Mitacs programs. A not-for-profit organization, Mitacs will use the funding to bring students together with industry and business in the technology, health, business and engineering sectors.

[For more details...](#)

Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) news

- PhD candidate and PICS fellow **Alex Schare** successfully defended his dissertation February 11th. Alex examined emissions from interurban transportation (passenger and freight) in BC and found (among other things) that freight trucking was the greatest contributor of CO2 emissions.
- Design and building of a new bus shelter at UNBC is currently underway. This project involves Guido Wimmers (Integrated Wood Design course/MEng Program), the City of Prince George, and the Green University Planning Committee and will serve as a demonstration project featuring local products and innovation. PICS will be on the jury to choose between two designs. The new bus shelter is expected to be completed by October 2016.
- Art, Change & Creativity with the Two Rivers Gallery. New explorations of knowledge-sharing and social mobilization via inserting climate change related content into an existing community, institution and schedule of activities are currently underway at the Two Rivers Art Gallery in Prince George.
- Planning of workshops in Prince George on public acceptability of forest and carbon mitigation options is currently underway in partnership with PICS PhD fellow Guillaume Petersen and Professor George Hoberg (both UBC). The first PG workshop will take place **March 14th** with twenty-five people from city and regional government, industry, NGOs, First Nations, forest contractors, and others participating.

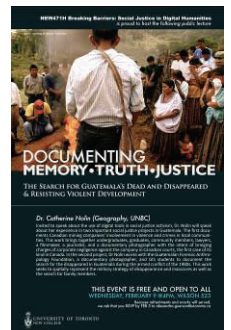
TRAVEL & CONFERENCES

Dr. Hugues Massicotte is back from a 2-day visit (Jan 31-Feb 1) as part of a team (IRC Site Visit—NSERC) to review a proposal for an Industrial Chair in Terrestrial Restoration Ecology at the University of Alberta.

Dr. Catherine Nolin traveled to New College, University of Toronto during reading break to deliver a public lecture on her research and social justice advocacy.

Dr. Phil Burton gave an invited presentation entitled “Why Dead Trees Don’t Constitute Fire-Prone Forests: Lessons from Recent Mountain Pine Beetle Outbreaks” to the School of Life Sciences at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, on February 2, 2016.

Drs. Ellen Petticrew (Geography), **Phil Owens** (Environmental Science), and **Nikolaus Gantner** (Adjunct, Environmental Science), and **Sam Albers** (QRR) attended the Mt Polley Science Meeting on February 10 and 11th in Vancouver. Data presentations by UNBC, UBC, U Lethbridge, DFO and Imperial Metals consultants were discussed in the context of assisting the BC Ministry of the Environment, who hosted the event, with decision making and planning for future efforts on the impacts of the August 2014 mine tailings impoundment breach on the Quesnel Watershed.



Dr Roy Rea is on professional leave, and having just returned from the Sea of Cortez in Baha California, wanted to share this photo he took of a Costa's hummingbird at Bahia de los Angeles.

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COURSE OFFERING

PhD summer course: Climate Change Adaptation and Transformations towards Sustainability.

When: August 1-5, 2016

Where: University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway.

This PhD course explores the relationship between adaptation and transformation, two concepts that are key to understanding societal responses to climate change. The objective of the course is to engage students with the latest theories, frameworks, approaches and methods for addressing two critical questions in solutions-oriented global change research: What does it mean to successfully adapt to climate change? How can deliberate transformations to sustainability be carried out rapidly, yet in ways that ethical and equitable?

Organizers: Oslo Summer School in Comparative Social Science Studies at the University of Oslo, in collaboration with the Future Earth Norway Secretariat.

Lecturer: Professor Karen O'Brien, Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo, Norway

Rolling admission, applications are now being accepted

Course Credits: 10 pts (ECTS)

Max. 25 participants

[Read more about the course and apply here.](#)

If you have any questions please get in touch with Linda Sygna at the Future Earth Norway Secretariat:

linda.sygna@sosgeo.uio.no

SUSAN STEVENSON MEMORIAL AWARD

As its first project of this kind, the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute (NRESi) has established the Susan Stevenson Scholarship Fund, 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.

Efforts have succeeded in reaching the goal of \$15,000 that will be matched by UNBC to allow for an annual award. The inaugural award is hoped to be presented in the 2016-2017 academic year. NRESi would like to thank everyone who contributed to the scholarship!

The following award criteria for the **Susan Stevenson Memorial Award** have been developed:

Value: \$1,000

Eligibility: Available to a full or part time female graduate student enrolled in either the Masters (NRES) or PhD (NRES) degree programs with a research emphasis in one or more of: wildlife ecology, plant biology, forest ecology, or innovative silvicultural systems and practices that emphasize wildlife management and biodiversity objectives.

Criteria: Satisfactory Academic Standing (3.0 GPA)

Conditions: Student is unable to receive this award more than once.

Recipient Selection: Senate Committee on Scholarships and Bursaries on recommendation of the NRESi Steering Committee. Applicants will provide a statement, not exceeding 500 words in length, explaining how their intended research fits within the areas specified for his award.

Application deadline for the 2016/17 academic year: August 1, 2016

COLLOQUIUM ARCHIVE

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

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