



*CMI Member Bulletins*  
For September 2009 – March 2010

## *About this archive*

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Members of the Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology receive regular news updates by email. Content is presented in "digest" style, and includes items of interest to people working in the various fields of applied ecology in southeastern British Columbia. Members send information about publications, conferences, web sites, funding opportunities, job postings, etc. to the CMI office, where it is compiled and sent out in a bulletin at the rate about one per month. Members also receive advance notice of courses and conferences.

This document is an archive of CMI Member Updates sent between August 2009 and March 2010.

## *Update for September 25, 2009*

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### **1. CMI News**

We have no conference planned for this fall but are hosting 5 courses. Details are on our web site. As of today there are three spots left on Dr. Carl Schwarz's "Introduction to Bayesian Methods" course. I am taking names for a wait list for the two offerings of the "Statistics Refresher for Biologists" course.

### **2. Job Posting: Environmental Technician for Kelowna**

Closing date is September 29

Details are at: [www.kelowna.ca/careers](http://www.kelowna.ca/careers)

Taken from the job posting:

The Regional Air Quality program outlines management objectives for the protection and improvement of air quality in the Central Okanagan Regional District. This position offers a unique opportunity to influence air quality and emissions management within the region. As a creative innovator, great communicator, self-starter, and team player, you will provide expert scientific and technical advice and assistance to a wide variety of stakeholders including all levels of government, industry, the agricultural community, resource management groups and the public.

### **3. Funding Opportunities**

#### **EcoAction Community Funds**

Deadline is November 1

Funding is available through Environment Canada's EcoAction Community Funding Program for projects that address Environment Canada's priority issues of clean air,

climate change, clean water, and nature. At this time, funding priority may be given to eligible projects that address biodiversity issues.

### **Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk**

Deadline November 6

<http://www.recovery.gc.ca/HSP-PIH/index.cfm>

The call for proposals is now underway for the 2010-2011 funding cycle (April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011) of the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk (HSP). Proposals will be accepted in the Pacific and Yukon Region between September 11, 2009 and 9pm on November 6, 2009. The overall goal of the HSP is to contribute to the recovery of endangered, threatened, and other species at risk, and to prevent other species from becoming a conservation concern, by engaging Canadians from all walks of life in conservation actions to benefit wildlife. The HSP provides funding to stewards for implementing activities that protect or conserve habitats for species listed under Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act and other species designated at risk by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. HSP operates via an online application and tracking system at <http://www.recovery.gc.ca/HSP-PIH/>. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact their regional project coordinators for access to the system and to discuss their proposals.

#### **4. Drought Planning in the Okanagan: Conference presentations available**

*“If we knew with certainty that the Okanagan will face an Australian-like drought in the next five years, what management tools would we need to develop to best handle the crisis?”*

Dr. Anna Warwick Sears, Executive Director, Okanagan Basin Water Board.

This important and pressing question was explored at the Okanagan Drought Planning Workshop, hosted by the Okanagan Basin Water Board, in Kelowna on July 23, 2009, where participants had an opportunity to discuss tools, policies and management techniques applicable to Okanagan water utilities. The workshop provided an opportunity to discuss and identify collaborative projects that may be implemented on an Okanagan Basin level.

To read more about this conference and view slides from presentations, go to:

[http://www.obwb.ca/drought\\_planning\\_workshop\\_2009/](http://www.obwb.ca/drought_planning_workshop_2009/)

You might want to look around at other resources on the website of the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

#### **5. Consortium of Pacific Northwest Herbaria**

<http://www.pnwherbaria.org/>

The Consortium of Pacific Northwest Herbaria was created in 2007 to bring together regional herbaria and provide an online portal to the wealth of existing and emerging

information about the flora of Pacific Northwest North America (includes Alaska, Yukon Territory, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana). Over 3.3 million specimen records and numerous online electronic resources are managed by the region's 53 herbaria, representing an irreplaceable storehouse of information for research and public education. Providing access to Pacific Northwest specimen collections is a primary function of the Consortium's web site. All types of herbarium specimen collections are represented by the consortium, including vascular plants, bryophytes, liverworts, hornworts, algae, lichens, and fungi; however, only vascular plant records are currently made available to the portal by providers.

## 6. Botany Photo of the Day

This service is hosted by the UBC Botanical Garden. Every day they send you an email link leading to a plant photo with a write-up about the plant. Here's the main website; look for the subscription information in the top right corner of the home page.

<http://www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org/>

## 7. White Nose Syndrome in bats

WNS is a fungal disease that has been associated with mass die-off of hibernating bats in North America. The name refers to a white fungus that grows on the muzzles and bodies of bats found in mass die-offs since 2006. In the past few years it has been associated with over one million bat mortalities at a number of bat hibernacula (caves) in the eastern U.S. Mortality rates at many sites are 80-100%. BC Ministry of Environment veterinarian Helen Schwantje asks that we be on the alert for this disease. It is of huge concern in western and Canadian jurisdictions. She requests that we be proactive and educate recreationalists, especially cavers and hikers, before it reaches BC, since they could be part of the way that this disease is transmitted. Our neighbours are doing the same; Alberta is posting some popular caves with warnings this year. Please refer to the **attached** fact sheet for more information.

## 8. Conferences and Courses

### **A Celebration of the Columbia Basin Watersheds**

Columbia Basin Watershed Network Regional Workshops

<http://www.cbwn.ca/>

This October the Columbia Basin Watershed Network (CBWN) is hosting two regional workshops: Invermere, Saturday October 3

Nakusp, Saturday October 17

The workshops will focus on regional watershed issues and broader scope networking, information sharing and educational opportunities. For more information, please contact Karen Nickurak by phone at 1-800-505-8998 or by email at : [cbwatersheds@gmail.com](mailto:cbwatersheds@gmail.com)

## **How to create a local conservation fund in your area**

October 29, 2009

St. Eugene Mission, Cranbrook BC

The majority of voters from Canal Flats to Spillimacheen (the Columbia Valley) said yes to about \$20 per parcel of additional property tax for a dedicated fund to support conservation projects in the valley. The Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund represents an investment of over \$2 million in conservation projects over the Fund's 9 year term. The Fund was established through a service bylaw that ensures the funds can only be spent on conservation. "Conservation" is now recognized as a service provided by local government, along side traditional programs like sewer and water. For more information, view the brochure at: (link no longer active) .

## **Wetlands Management, Economics, and Policy**

Victoria, British Columbia

January 13-15, 2010

*Call for Papers and Participants*

The University of Victoria in conjunction with the University of Alberta and Ducks Unlimited will host this workshop. Papers from the workshop will be published in the *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics* (special issue) to appear in 2011. As wetland policy discussions and changes are ongoing across Canada, the U.S. and elsewhere, the timing of such a workshop is ripe for advancing the state of knowledge about the benefits of wetlands and fuelling policy discussions.

Details are at: <http://web.uvic.ca/~wetlands/>

## **9. From the CMI Archives**

Did you know that past CMI Members' Updates are archived on our website?

<http://www.cmiae.org/Resources/#archive>

Here's a couple of items from our archives.

### **September 2003: BC Mushrooms Web Site**

<http://bcmushrooms.forrex.org/>

Now that the moisture is back the mushrooms will be out soon... you'll want to see this FORREX site about BC Mushrooms. A major part of the site is devoted to ectomycorrhizal mushrooms from old forests in the Coastal Western Hemlock Zone, which were sampled for 4 years for aboveground ectomycorrhizal mushrooms. Around 200 different species were collected and described. Another part of the site is devoted to mushrooms as non-timber forest products. This part of the site describes details on morphology, synonyms, common names, ecology and habitats and look-alikes. There are also provide distribution maps and interesting facts about each mushroom.

### **May 2002: Publication on "Special Forest Products"**

<http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/gtr513/>

This US Forest Service research publication titled "Special Forests Products: Species Information" is by N. Vance, M. Borsting, D. Pilz, and J. Freed. The guide is a collection of information about important vascular and non-vascular plants and fungi found in the Pacific Northwest [US] that furnish special forest products. Internet commerce has made these products available to consumers world-wide and expanded interest in medicinal plants, decorative floral products, and edible wild fruits and mushrooms. The publication describes biological and ecological attributes of over 60 plants and fungi and their harvest methods, alternatives to wild harvest, and use. The 169 page document is broken into sections for easier downloading.

## *Update for November 5, 2009*

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### 1. CMI News

Our Directors and *ad hoc* committees are working on the following events. You will receive more details as they become available.

May 2010 – In partnership with the Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre, we will hold a two day event about **online mapping resources and how to create your own maps using a GPS and free software.**

Fall 2010 – A conference exploring the need to **integrate societal values and human behaviours into natural resource management.** May include adjunct seminars on conducting public participation programs and what resource managers need to know about building working relationships with First Nations.

Spring 2011 – A conference on **carbon management.** This began as a conference on ecological goods and services, which is a huge topic. Eventually we may develop events on other aspects of ecological goods and services.

In addition we will be hosting Dr. Joe Thorley and his "Introduction to R" course, and we hope to have Dr. Carl Schwarz back to teach more of his statistics courses (Statistics Refresher, Mark-Recapture, and others). David Polster's courses on Soil Bioengineering and Ecological Approaches to Invasive Plant Management will be offered if demand warrants – let us know if you are interested.

We're always interested to know if there is specific training you are looking for, or if you've taken a good course that we can bring to southeastern BC.

### 2. Youth Eco Internships

<http://www.yeip.ca>

The Youth Eco Internship Program places people aged 15 to 30 from diverse backgrounds into paid internship opportunities within the non-profit and community services sector in Canada with a focus on the environment, community, and women's services. These positions, offered in a wide range of organizations, will help young

Canadians learn the skills required to gain and sustain future employment within the sector. This project is a collaboration between the YMCA and YWCA Canada, with funding provided by the Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan.

Environmental employment involves work related, but not limited, to:

- Environmental protection e.g. air quality, water quality, land quality, waste management, restoration and reclamation, human and environmental health and safety, environmental protection management
- Conservation and preservation of natural resources e.g. fisheries and wildlife, forestry, agriculture, mining, energy, parks and natural reserves, natural resources management
- Environmental sustainability e.g. education, research and development, policy and legislation, communications and policy awareness, management for sustainable development.

### 3. Publications

*Credible Conservation Offsets for Natural Areas in British Columbia*  
Bringing BC's Natural Areas into the Offset Market  
<http://www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca/docs/LTABC-report09-web2.pdf>

Published by the Land Trust Alliance of BC, this report makes recommendations on how BC's internationally important biodiversity and carbon storing forests and other natural area lands should and can be included in Climate Offset Markets, internationally and within BC. Written by industry professionals Dirk Brinkman and Dr. Richard Hebda.

*Wetland Ways: Interim Guidelines for Wetland Protection and Conservation in British Columbia*

Available at:

[http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/wetlandways2009/wetlandways\\_docintro.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/wetlandways2009/wetlandways_docintro.html)

Produced by the Wetland Stewardship Partnership, this document is written primarily for people who are planning some form of activity or development near wetlands, as well as those looking for guidance on ways to best maintain the high ecological values in these areas. A healthy natural environment is the foundation of British Columbia's economy and quality of life. Wetlands are among the most biologically diverse, productive, and important life support systems on earth. They are integral to the functioning of many important ecosystems and life forms in B.C. They also provide people with a wide range of beneficial services, from flood control and water supply to recreational opportunities. Often, these services are unrecognized and undervalued, leading to the loss or impairment of wetlands—and thus the services they had provided are either costly or impossible to replace.

*A Review of Climate-Change Adaptation Strategies for Wildlife Management and Biodiversity Conservation*

by Jonathan R. Mawdsley, Robin O'Malley and Dennis S. Ojima. Conservation Biology,

Volume 23, No. 5, pages 1080-1089  
(You need a subscription to this journal to access the article)

This literature review groups climate adaptation strategies into four broad categories: land and water protection and management; direct species management; monitoring and planning; and law and policy. The review indicates natural resource managers already have many tools that can be used to address climate-change effects; but managers will likely need to apply these tools in novel and innovative ways to meet the unprecedented challenges posed by climate change.

#### *New FORREX Mailing List from the Socio-economics Extension Program*

Interested in the social, economic and cultural dimensions of managing natural resources? Subscribe to the new FORREX Mailing List from the Socio-economics Extension Program! Simply click subscribe to [subscribe to SocialScienceExt](#) . Your email program will automatically create a message for you to send. Send this email without any alterations. You can also subscribe to this or other FORREX lists by visiting their subscription page at <http://www.forrex.org/tools/maillinglists.asp> . This service is expected to be low volume (around once a month).

#### **4. Conferences**

##### *Unique Habitats, Unique Challenges*

January 19th and 20th, 2010

Richmond, BC

<http://www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca/>

(link to the conference information is no longer active.)

The Invasive Plant Council's fifth annual conference addresses aquatic invaders, unique habitat challengers, practical solutions, and collaboration. A draft agenda is on their website.

##### Pacific Climate Seminar Series

"Novel Ecosystems: Implications for Conservation and Restoration".

<http://pacificclimate.org/resources/seminars/>

September 2009 marked the beginning of the second annual Pacific Climate Seminar Series. This academic year the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC) and the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) have joined together to co-host the series. All seminars will be held at 2:00 pm on the third Wednesday of every month at the University of Victoria. A live webcast will be available. Presenters also post their slides and abstracts. Of note to the CMI members is the December 16 broadcast by Dr. Eric Higgs, School of Environmental Studies, University of Victoria about "Novel Ecosystems: Implications for Conservation and Restoration"

**1. College of the Rockies wants your input on survey**

Matt Laba at COTR asked me to make sure you knew about their on-line survey, which closes November 30. This goal of the survey is to help the College build strong environmental programs that are more relevant and in-demand.

**2. David Suzuki and Al Gore on CBC's Q radio program this morning.**

Suzuki and Gore on a popular culture show? They will be asked about the next stage of their work in environmental education and about the challenges of their message. Has the environment become too political? Given worries over the economy and public health, is the environment being perceived as a less pressing priority in the hierarchy of our problems?

If you miss the live radio broadcast you can listen later today at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/q/pastepisodes.html>

**3. Presentations from 2008 conference at Colorado State University:**

*Integrating Human Dimensions into Fish and Wildlife Management*

Over 200 lectures were presented at this event. Many of the PowerPoints and summaries are available as PDFs at this website:

[http://warnercnr.colostate.edu/nrrt/hdfw/presentations\\_2008.html](http://warnercnr.colostate.edu/nrrt/hdfw/presentations_2008.html)

**4. Funding for bird research, deadline December 15**

James L. Baillie Memorial Fund

This is the intake for grants of \$1000 to \$5000 for non-profit groups. Two more intakes are in January (smaller grants) and February (student grants of \$1000). Details are at the Bird Studies Canada website:

<http://www.bsc-eoc.org/about/jlbmf/index.jsp?targetpg=index&lang=en>

**5. eBird Canada**

<http://ebird.org/content/canada/about>

You've heard of eFlora and eFauna websites; now we have eBird in Canada. A real-time, online checklist program, eBird has revolutionized the way that the birding community reports and accesses information about birds. Launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, eBird provides rich data sources for basic information on bird abundance and distribution at a variety of spatial and temporal scales.

Bird Studies Canada has just released a new tool within eBird Canada which shows the location of all the recent sightings of interest across the country. Birdwatchers can now find out quickly by looking at a map whether there were any interesting birds reported in their area over the last couple of weeks. To use this new tool, visit <http://ebird.ca/sightings.jsp>. Help build the site by adding your sightings.

## 6. From the CMI website archives

You can view all our past Members' updates up to August 2009 at:

<http://www.cmiae.org/Resources/#archive>

### **UBC Botanical Garden's downloadable list of plant names for your spellchecker**

No more squiggly red lines under Latin plant names! The UBC Botanical Garden web site has a section called "Resources and Writings". One of their offerings is a botanical dictionary to add to your computer, so that Latin names of BC plants are accepted by your spellchecker.

Follow this link <http://www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org/resources> to the list of their resources. Look about half way down the centre section of the web page for the link to "Botanical Names Dictionary"

[http://www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org/resources/botanical\\_names.dic](http://www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org/resources/botanical_names.dic). Click on the link and a \*.dic file appears. Use Microsoft Word help to "add an existing custom dictionary". Or, do what I did – copy all the 7,300 words in the file and paste them into your computer's file called custom.dic

## *Update from December 18, 2009*

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### **1. Invasive Plant Council of BC is hiring education and outreach workers**

Locations include: Central or West Kootenay (Nelson or Castlegar or Rossland/Trail)

**Applications due December 22**

Beginning in January, the Invasive Plant Council of BC will hire Invasive Plant Outreach Workers to deliver education and outreach program in regions across BC. These positions will be full-time for 3 months. Work will primarily be 40 hours a week both in an office and out in the community. Successful candidates must be unemployed, well spoken, articulate and have previous experience delivering presentations, training or other public relations activities. Applicants must have a working knowledge of invasive plants. Applicants must be self-motivated, computer literate and competent, and be capable of working in a variety of settings. Technical certification or a degree in areas such as forestry, biology, agriculture, natural resource science or other related certificate is an asset. All applicants should have a reliable vehicle to travel to and from outreach events. Email resume to [bstewart@invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca](mailto:bstewart@invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca) or fax resume to 1-250-446-2370 by 4:30 pm December 22nd, 2009. Clearly indicate the position you are applying for, and the location you wish to work in. Late resumes may be accepted. NOTE: Only those who are short-listed will be contacted.

Detailed job description is available at [www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca](http://www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca)

### **2. Funding Sources**

#### *Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund Seeks Proposals*

Proposals are now being accepted for the Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund and up to \$200,000 will soon be available for on the ground projects. Project proposals

must be related to improving conditions for water, fish, wildlife and habitat or conserving natural areas. East Kootenay Conservation Program Chair, Nancy Newhouse says, “For proposals to be considered they must be targeted within the fund area, address threats to biodiversity, be technically sound and effective, and be submitted in conjunction with a registered society.” Proposals must be submitted to the EKCP by January 29, 2010. A Technical Review Committee will then review all applications and make recommendations to the RDEK Board of Directors, who will make the final funding decisions. For more information, contact Wayne Stetski at the East Kootenay Conservation Program, [ekcp@cyberlink.bc.ca](mailto:ekcp@cyberlink.bc.ca)

#### *Conservation Maven*

<http://www.conservationmaven.com/>

This is a fairly new US based resource for people in the conservation community. They have a list of 12 funders that fund conservation work or provide fellowships. Most funders accept applications for work in Canada. Look for the “Funding Board” tab across the top menu.

### **3. Use of “cosmetic” chemical pesticides**

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/ipmp/reggs/cosmetic-pesticides/consultation.htm>

The BC Government wants public input on “new statutory protections to further safeguard the environment from cosmetic chemical pesticides.” It is the government’s intention to seek input on this topic and then determine if, and how, legislation could be amended to address concerns about the cosmetic use of pesticides in British Columbia. This consultation forum and website are intended to stimulate conversation and gather input. The Ministry of Environment has prepared background information and identified consultation issues for discussion to build understanding about the subject and provide a structure for comments and feedback.

### **4. Pollinator Resource Centre**

<http://www.xerces.org/pollinators-pacific-northwest-region/>

This is a new resource from “The XERCES Society for Invertebrate Conservation” which may be of use for plant species management and restoration efforts. Contains regional information about plant lists, habitat conservation guides, and more. The pollinator resources found on this page support habitat projects in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia

<http://www.xerces.org/pollinators-pacific-northwest-region/>

And if you are looking for a Christmas gift to make, how about a **Bee Condo?** The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program has links for directions on building bird houses, bat houses, and bee condos. <http://fwcp.ca/version2/forms/gifts/index.php>

### **5. Reading**

*Species at Risk Guidance document for resource professionals*

The College of Applied Biology worked jointly with the Association of BC Forest Professionals to produce guidance on species at risk for members of both organizations. This may be of interest to folks working with QEP's (Qualified Environmental Professionals) or who are QEP's. It provides a good understanding of the legislation, how it is delivered, and relationships to provincial legislation. The final document, approved by the College and ABCFP Councils is available at:  
<http://www.cab-bc.org/files/SAR%20Paper.pdf>

### *Carbon Management in British Columbia's Forests*

Mike Greig and Gary Bull. 2009

FORREX Series 24

<http://www.forrex.org/publications/forrexSeries/fs24.pdf>

This report consolidates forest carbon management information currently available for British Columbia in the policy, research, and operational communities. The material presented is intended to increase awareness and facilitate a constructive dialogue among those interested in forest carbon management in the province.

## **6. Conferences and Webinars**

### *Free web seminars on Inventory and Survey Methods for Invasive Plants*

University of Montana

Six free interactive web seminars on inventory and survey methods for invasive plants are offered by the Center for Invasive Plant Management (CIPM) during January and February 2010. There is no fee for the seminars, but advanced registration is required. Participants will be provided with reading materials in advance of each seminar. To learn more and register visit:

<http://www.weedcenter.org/outreach/project-webseminar.html> .

### *FORREX's Online research chat series*

<http://www.forrex.org/events/scienceforum/default.asp>

Here's a list of their next few chats. FORREX likes to limit the number of participants to 20 so register early. Information from last "chats" is posted.

Tuesday, January 05, 2010 from 12:30pm to 1:00pm

Maximizing Interior Douglas-fir survival at its northern extent: Rationale for using a variety of retention approaches to meet strategic and operational objectives

Bruce Rogers

Tuesday, January 12, 2010 from 12:30pm to 1:00pm

Forest management on alluvial fans and in the watershed fans

Dave Wilford

Tuesday, January 19, 2010 from 12:30pm to 1:00pm

Selecting tree species for the ICH, Alan Vyse

*Conservation for a Changing Planet*  
24th International Congress of Conservation Biology  
Edmonton, Alberta,  
July 3-10, 2010  
<http://www.conbio.org/activities/meetings/2010/>

Conference theme: Humans are causing large changes to the ecology of the earth. Industrial development and agriculture are changing landscapes. Carbon emissions to the atmosphere are changing climates. Nowhere on earth are changes to climate having more drastic effects on ecosystems and human cultures than in the north. Developing conservation strategies to cope with our changing planet is arguably the greatest challenge facing today's world and its biodiversity. Call for abstracts for oral, speed and poster presentations are still open.

## *Updates from January 26, 2010*

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### 1. CMI News

Our **Annual CMI Researchers' Meeting and AGM** will be held in Castlegar this year, on May 12. This year's format will include presentations and posters so you can share information about your research and initiatives, and perhaps we can line up a couple of field trips for the last half of the afternoon. I'll keep you posted as details develop.

We have been busy organizing this year's courses and our fall conference. Details and registration are on our website for some events, and if you have questions about the events for which details are not yet finalized, just give me a call.

- **Aboriginal Cultural Awareness for Natural Resource Managers**, April 20-21, 2010, United Church Hall, Revelstoke
- **Public Participation Skills for Natural Resource Managers**, April 28-29, 2010, United Church Hall, Revelstoke (a [FORREX](#) course)
- **CMI Annual Researchers' Meeting and AGM**, May 12, 2010, Castlegar
- **Using on-line mapping resources**, May 13, 2010, Castlegar
- **Making your own maps using a GPS & free programs such as Google Earth**, May 14, Castlegar
- **Statistics course on trend analysis and EIA**, June 2010, Revelstoke
- **Statistics for biologists – A refresher course**, June 2010, Revelstoke
- **Introduction to R software**, August 24-25 2010, Revelstoke
- **Ecological Approaches to Invasive Plant Management**, September 13-14, 2010, Revelstoke
- **Soil Bioengineering**, September 15-16, 2010, Revelstoke
- **The People Side of Natural Resource Management** conference October 6-7, 2010, Revelstoke
- Repeats of the **Aboriginal Cultural Awareness** and **Public Participation Skills** courses in October

## 2. Funding Opportunities

### **Upper Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund.**

The East Kootenay Conservation Partnership, in partnership with the Regional District of East Kootenay, are accepting project proposals for the Upper Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund. \$200,000 is available to fund on-the-ground work in the area from Canal Flats to Spillimacheen. Requests are due by January 29, 2010.

Read about the fund at: [http://www.ekcp.ca/EKCP\\_LCF.html](http://www.ekcp.ca/EKCP_LCF.html)

For more information call EKCP Manager Wayne Stetski at 250 581-1122 or

[ekcp@cyberlink.bc.ca](mailto:ekcp@cyberlink.bc.ca)

### **Y2Y Partner Grants - Requests for Proposals**

Projects must be in one of their priority areas and must be submitted through an organization. The organization does not have to be a charity. Due March 1.

Details are at: <http://www.y2y.net/Default.aspx?cid=143&lang=1>

### **Community Initiatives Programs - Columbia Basin Trust**

These programs are administered separately in each of the Regional Districts around the Columbia Basin, with varying support for environmental initiatives. Deadlines are in February and March. Details differ for each Regional District. For information about the CBT's various funding programs, see: <http://www.cbt.org/Funding/?Programs> .

## 3. Managing Columbia River reservoirs in a warmer climate

<http://www.cbulletin.com/373908.aspx>

Civil engineers at the University of Washington and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Seattle office have taken a first look at how dams in the Columbia River basin, the nation's [United States] largest hydropower system, could be managed for a different climate. They developed a new technique to determine when to empty reservoirs in the winter for flood control and when to refill them in the spring to provide storage for the coming year. The above link leads to an article about the report. A link to the report, published in the Journal of Water Resources Planning and Management, is in the article.

## 4. Call for Nominations for the J.B. Harkin Conservation Award 2010

The deadline for nominations has been extended to March 1, 2010.

Know someone who has made a significant contribution to conservation over their lifetime? Someone whose achievement is worthy of recognition? The J.B. Harkin Medal is Canada's most prestigious conservation award. Since 1972, the award has been presented by the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society to living individuals who:

- have made a significant life-long contribution through words and deeds to the conservation of Canada's parks and wilderness;
- or have made a special one-time contribution to national conservation;
- and have not been otherwise recognized.

The award is named for James Bernard Harkin, Canada's 1st Commissioner of National Parks. Learn more about the J.B. Harkin Medal and see a list of previous participants at the CPAWS website: <http://cpaws.org/about/harkin.php>

## 5. Lectures you might like to catch

**Golden** - The Columbia Basin Trust is hosting an evening of guest speakers to address the future of glaciers in the Columbia Basin, and what this might mean for our water resources. Golden Civic Centre, 7:00 pm on February 1. Details including a list of speakers, are at:

[http://www.cbt.org/Initiatives/Climate\\_Change/?view&vars=1&content=Whats\\_New&WebDynID=1207](http://www.cbt.org/Initiatives/Climate_Change/?view&vars=1&content=Whats_New&WebDynID=1207)

**Victoria** - The Ministry of Forests and Range Research Branch hosts these one hour presentations (11 a.m. to noon) at Room 201 – 727 Fisgard St, Victoria. A limited number of people can participate by conference call (call Evelyn Hamilton [evelyn.hamilton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:evelyn.hamilton@gov.bc.ca)) Visit [http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hre/research\\_seminars/](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hre/research_seminars/) to download the PowerPoints to follow along via conference call - **or just to look at them independently of the series.** Past presentations are also available at the website.

Upcoming talks are:

- Chuck Bulmer and Shannon Berch, Provincial predictive soils map, February 24, 2010
- Caren Dymond, Preliminary estimates of climate change impacts on forest carbon dynamics, March 17, 2010
- Dave Spittlehouse, Climate modelling – what it is and what it isn't, March 24, 2010
- Jim Goudie, Tass III - the next generation: evolving the TIPSy features, April 7, 2010
- Adrian Walton, An update on MPB projections, April 21, 2010
- Ward Strong, New discoveries to old problems: update on the Cone and Seed Pest Research program, May 5, 2010
- Peter Tschaplinski, Overview of the Carnation Creek Watershed Project, May 19, 2010

## 6. Websites

### **New Canadian Important Bird Areas website launched**

<http://www.ibacanada.ca/>

Bird Studies Canada and Nature Canada have launched a new website for the Canadian Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program. The site's main goals are to share information about IBAs in Canada, and to empower more Canadians to reconnect with nature as volunteers for the IBA Caretaker Network. The new, fully bilingual website provides information, tools, and mapping features to help IBA partners and volunteers more effectively monitor birds and assess conditions at key sites. There are nearly 600 Canadian IBAs, many of which are not legally protected.

## **WetKit - Tools for working with wetlands in Canada**

<http://www.wetkit.net>

WetKit is a web-based tool kit designed to streamline access to practical tools that can help Canadians better understand and manage wetlands. WetKit showcases a wealth of wetland tools and explains how each one can help conserve wetlands and benefit you or your business. WetKit also helps users to find the tool they need, and to access that tool quickly and easily - on the Internet or over the phone. For example, enter "beaver" in the search field and you will see links to managing problem beavers (lots) and how beavers can be a tool in increasing biodiversity. (Interestingly, this useful website is no longer maintained by its partners and is being kept available as an archive until its future is decided.)

## **7. Conference**

### **Environmental Education and Communication 2010 Conference**

May 19-22 2010 - Burnaby, B.C.

Diversity, sustainability and environment: Exploring cultural and practical diversity for environmental learning

<http://www.educ.sfu.ca/eecom2010>

Diversity in sustainability and environmental learning is compounded when one considers the various cultures, practices and research traditions that inform the field. This complexity accounts for a range of forms for learning whether it occurs in formal, informal or non-formal contexts. Cultural diversity is often talked about in educational circles, and it is assumed that great benefits are to be gained by educators through careful attention to the range of perspectives that the world has to offer. In terms of curriculum content, pedagogy, and practice, there is a good deal of evidence that, in order to be more responsive to the needs of diverse populations, program developments around the world are beginning to reflect the variation in our society.

## ***Updates from February 19, 2010***

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### **1. CMI News**

Earlier this week I sent out the notice for **nominations for CMI Directors** (nominations are due March 5) and also the notice for our **Annual General Meeting** on May 12 in Castlegar.

We have a Call for Presentations, Posters, and Field trips out now, for the **CMI Annual Researchers' Meeting**, May 12 at Selkirk College. Please consider telling us about your research project or initiative, and attending to catch up with the members! Details are on our website.

Here's a list of our confirmed events for 2010. We have an *Online GIS for Citizen Science and Stewardship* mapping workshop and a *GPS Unleashed: Making the most*

out of GPS data and free online software course scheduled for May 13 and 14. I hope to have those open for registration in early March. You will receive announcements.

[Aboriginal Cultural Awareness for Natural Resource Managers](#)

April 20-21, 2010, Revelstoke

[Public Participation Skills for Natural Resource Managers](#)

April 28-29, 2010, Revelstoke

[CMI Annual Researchers' Meeting and Annual General Meeting](#)

Call for Papers until April 15

May 12, 2010, Castlegar

Online GIS for Citizen Science and Stewardship  
May 13, 2010 Castlegar (*details coming very soon*)

GPS Unleashed: Making the most out of GPS data and free online mapping resources  
May 14, 2010, Castlegar (*details coming very soon*)

[Introduction to R software](#)

August 24-25, 2010, Revelstoke

[Ecological Approaches to Invasive Plant Management](#)

September 13-14, 2010, Revelstoke

[Soil Bioengineering](#)

September 15-16, 2010, Revelstoke

[Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management conference](#)

Call for Papers until May 31

October 6-7, 2010, Revelstoke

Planning is in progress for our spring 2011 conference, *Carbon Management in the Ecosystems of British Columbia: A search for opportunities to mitigate climate change.*

## 2. Funding

### **Columbia Basin Trust's Environmental Initiatives Program**

[www.cbt.org/programs](http://www.cbt.org/programs)

Deadline to apply is 3:30 p.m. PST March 19, 2010

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is now accepting community-initiated and community-supported project applications for its Environmental Initiatives Program (EIP). The EIP program includes a small grants stream, geared at projects under \$5,000 and a large grants stream for projects up to \$20,000. Application forms and guidelines are at the website address shown above.

### 3. Publications and websites

*Managing Forest Fuels in the Wildland Urban Interface.*

Forest Practices Board. 2010. Forest Practices Board, Victoria, BC. Special Investigation Report FPB/SIR/28 31 pp.

View the document <https://mail.google.com/a/cmiae.org/?ui=2-label/Next+email+update/126e776ef60cc585> at:

<https://mail.google.com/a/cmiae.org/?ui=2#label/Next+email+update/126e776ef60cc585>

*North American Wildlife Crossing Structure Design Competition*

<http://www.arc-competition.com/about.php>

This competition seeks innovation in feasible, buildable, context-sensitive, and compelling design solutions for safe, efficient, cost-effective, and ecologically responsive wildlife crossings. In doing so, it hopes to raise international awareness of a need to better reconcile the construction and maintenance of road networks with wildlife movement. (We're looking forward to seeing the winning designs!)

*Public attitudes toward sustainable forest management: Opinions from forest-dependent communities in British Columbia*

Journal of Ecosystem Management JEM 10(2) Article

[http://www.forrex.org/publications/jem/ISS51/vol10\\_no2\\_art7.pdf](http://www.forrex.org/publications/jem/ISS51/vol10_no2_art7.pdf)

“Although public participation is a requirement of sustainable forest management, it can be difficult for forest managers to obtain broad levels of representation through traditional public participation mechanisms, such as open houses, information sessions, and public advisory groups. We examine the opinions of residents of nine forest-dependent communities in British Columbia .... Results suggest a need to develop better methods of engaging and communicating with people beyond the public advisory groups; to increase the public's knowledge of sustainable forest management; and to increase trust in forest companies as stewards of the forest.”

*And this would be why CMI is hosting the FORREX course on Public Participation Skills for Natural Resource Managers, April 28-29, 2010, in Revelstoke.*

*Forests in a carbon-constrained world.*

Dymond, C.C. and D.L. Spittlehouse. 2009. B.C. Min. For. Range, For. Sci. Prog., Victoria, B.C. Exten. Note 92. [www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/Docs/En/En92.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/Docs/En/En92.htm)

*You can learn more at CMI's Carbon Management in the Ecosystems of British Columbia conference, planned for spring of 2011.*

### 4. Conferences

*People and Pixels Planning Conference*

March 5, 2010

Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre, Castlegar

<http://kast.com/?q=node/1852>

Hosted by the Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre and the Kootenay Association for Science and Technology, this one day conference includes demonstrations on the use of internet mapping, and talks on:

- Visioning and Visualization - Review of the role of computer aided planning support tools;
- Visualizing climate change adaptation;
- Anticipating the unknown: visualizing tsunamis and other environmental hazards;
- Visualization and community participation in land use planning
- The artistic side of planning - Multimedia and Visualizing the Landscape.

*Building a Culture that Sustains Land*

March 18-20, 2010

Naramata, BC

[www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca](http://www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca)

Join BC's land trusts, naturalists, stewardship, conservation, and land use organizations and agencies in this foremost Land Trust and Stewardship Seminar Series, hosted by the Land Trust Alliance of BC. This three day event includes site visits to protected areas, including Skaha Bluffs, restored riparian areas and other Okanagan cultural sites. Harold Baumbrough and Mike Sarrell, will give presentations on snakes, fire and other features of BC's biodiversity. In addition to a full day workshop by renowned North American fundraiser Kim Klein, there are another 15 seminars about protecting BC's biodiversity and carbon storing in forests and grasslands for healthy communities and a healthy climate. Pre-registration discounts are available until March 1.

*Botany BC 2010*

May 27-30, 2010

Tofino BC

Presentations and meeting activities will be held in the Tofino Community Hall and the Tofino Botanical Gardens Foundation/ Clayoquot Field Station and as usual, field trips to some very exciting areas of interest will also be on the agenda. The primary organizers for this year's Botany BC are Andy MacKinnon and Josie Osborne. You can contact Elizabeth Easton at [Elizabeth.Easton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Elizabeth.Easton@gov.bc.ca) if you are interested in being added to a list to receive notification when the website, with schedule and registration information, is available.

*British Columbia Wildlife Federation's 2010 Wetlands Institute*

May 31-June 6, 2010

Kamloops BC

<http://www.bcwf.bc.ca/programs/wetlands/wetlandsinstitute.html>

Includes 6 days of fieldwork, activities, and dialogue with experts to learn wetland construction, restoration and stewardship skills.

## *Update from March 17, 2010*

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### 1. CMI News

We are hoping you will join us in Castlegar on May 12, for this year's [CMI Annual Researchers' Meeting and AGM](#). This is a casual meeting where members trade news on projects and initiatives. You are welcome to make a presentation – PowerPoint, or speak to a poster, or "just speak", whatever you like. Perhaps you have a field trip for us? Please send me something along the lines of an abstract before APRIL 15. We will be in the staff lounge at Selkirk College in Castlegar. *Non-members are welcome*. Our [Aboriginal Cultural Awareness](#) course, and our [Public Participation Skills](#) course, both in April, have room for more participants. Both of these courses will help round out the skill sets needed by today's natural resource managers.

Registrations are also coming in for May's [Online GIS for Citizen Science and Stewardship](#) workshop (how to use online mapping resources such as <http://www.biodiversityatlas.org>) and our [GPS Unleashed](#) course (how to make your own maps using GPS and Google Earth). Selkirk College will provide a GPS unit if you don't have one. Neither of these events require you to be an experienced computer mapper.

If you are coming to the Annual Researchers Meeting or the mapping events, you can stay at the Selkirk College student residence for as little as \$30 per night. Ask me for the details.

We have a Call for Papers out for our fall Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management conference. [Submissions](#) are due May 31.

Joe Thorley will be instructing his [Introduction to R Software](#) course in August. In September we have four courses lined up: Carl Schwarz will be in Revelstoke for his next offering of the stats refresher course, (week of September 20) and to teach his Trend Analysis course (which may contain a component on environmental impact assessment)(week of September 27). David Polster will be back to instruct his [Soil Bioengineering](#) course and his [Ecological Approaches to Invasive Plant Management](#) course.

October 6-7 will be our [Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management](#) conference.

### 2. Articles

#### ***Badger Wildlife Habitat Decision Aid***

[http://www.forrex.org/publications/jem/ISS52/vol10\\_no3\\_art2.pdf](http://www.forrex.org/publications/jem/ISS52/vol10_no3_art2.pdf)

Richard D. Weir and Pedro Lara Almuedo

Journal of Ecosystems and Management, Volume 10, Number 3 2010, pages 9-13

Under the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, forest and range licensees in British Columbia are required to develop Forest Stewardship Plans and manage their operations to maintain limiting habitats of Identified Wildlife within their tenures. North American badgers are large members of the weasel family that are a Species At Risk within the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy and are listed as Endangered by COSEWIC. Several aspects of their ecology make them susceptible to forest and range management activities, including their dependence on the grassland, open forest, and modified forested habitat that supports their prey. This Wildlife Habitat Decision Aid summarizes the latest scientific and experiential information that forest and range managers, including silviculture planners, operational foresters, and ranchers, need to consider when managing for badger habitat requirements.

***Riparian Management of Small Streams: An Experimental Trial at the Malcolm Knapp Research Forest***

[http://www.forrex.org/publications/streamline/ISS42/Streamline\\_Vol13\\_No2\\_art1.pdf](http://www.forrex.org/publications/streamline/ISS42/Streamline_Vol13_No2_art1.pdf)

John S. Richardson, Michael C. Feller, Peter M. Kiffney, R. Dan Moore, Stephen Mitchell, and Scott G. Hinch

Streamline Volume 13, Number 2, Spring 2010.

*From the abstract:* One of the primary tools used around the world for protecting streams from the impacts of forest harvesting is to leave a strip of native vegetation along the stream, either as a riparian reserve (no harvesting) or buffer (some management activities permitted). Despite the widespread use of riparian reserves, there have been few assessments of their effectiveness, and this is especially true of small streams. Small streams in particular have been increasingly appreciated over the past decade for their provision of key ecosystem services linking forests to downstream aquatic habitat, as a unique ecosystem in their own right, and for the lack of protection afforded them under most forest management guidelines. We set out in 1996 to test experimentally the effectiveness of a range of riparian management treatments on small streams and their riparian areas.

***Climate change and Canada's forests: From impacts to adaptation***

[http://www.sfmnetwork.ca/docs/e/SP\\_ClimateChange\\_English.pdf](http://www.sfmnetwork.ca/docs/e/SP_ClimateChange_English.pdf)

Williamson, T.B.; Colombo, S.J.; Duinker, P.N.; Gray, P.A.; Hennessey, R.J.; Houle, D.; Johnston, M.H.; Ogden, A.E.; Spittlehouse, D.L.

Sustainable Forest Management Network and Natural Resources Canada, 2009. 104 pages.

Includes current and future impacts on Canada's forests, regional forest vulnerabilities, impacts on the forest sector, and more.

***Loon behaviour and calls***

<http://www.birdscanada.org/download/BWCwi10.pdf>

Dr. Charles Walcott, in BirdWatch Canada No.50.

Charles Walcott reveals new details of the social structure, territoriality, and acoustic communication of loons. The information was gleaned through studies of a large loon population in Wisconsin over the last 14 years.

### ***Status of the Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*) in Alberta, Update 2010***

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Wildlife Status Report #37 Edmonton AB  
44 pages

A status report on Alberta's grizzly bear population and habitat, prepared by an independent scientist, is now complete. The report establishes a new baseline of information for the province. The report uses data collected from the advanced technique on DNA surveys, satellite habitat mapping, and other information regarding populations and habitat. The report estimates 691 grizzly bears ranging in density from five to 18 bears per 1,000 square kilometres. Some local populations with significant habitat alteration may be declining; other populations appear stable.

## **3. Courses**

### ***BC Wildlife Federation's Wetlands Institute***

<http://www.bcwf.bc.ca/programs/wetlands/wetlandsinstitute.html>

May 31 - June 6, 2010

Kamloops BC

This is a 6 day long workshop/course. It includes fieldwork and dialogue with experts to learn wetlands construction, restoration, and stewardship skills. Activities include wetland design for Logan Lake, wetland construction near Campbell Creek, restoration techniques at Tree flats, amphibian identification, and Mountain Pine Beetle dialogue at Paska Lake, wetlands restoration on Indian Band Land and more.

## ***Update from March 30, 2010***

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### **1. CMI News**

**Registrations** are coming in for all of our events. For more information, please go to our [website](#). Please consider making a presentation (PowerPoint or poster or whatever you like) at our Annual Researchers' Meeting and AGM in Castlegar.

CMI's current fiscal period is April 1 to March 31. **Revenue Canada has approved our request to change the fiscal year end to December 31.** This means our fiscal year end will occur during a quiet period, instead of in the middle of our busy spring period.

## 2. Other news

### ***Employment Opportunity: Horticulturist/Plant Ecologist***

Here is the employment notice as sent from Tipi Mountain Native Plants:

Tipi Mountain Native Plants is a wholesale greenhouse & nursery operation located in the beautiful East Kootenay region of British Columbia. Our facility is located in a majestic rural setting between the cities of Kimberley and Cranbrook, British Columbia. We propagate a wide variety of native species for reclamation and landscaping purposes. Recent rapid growth has necessitated the need to hire skilled staff within our organization. If you love the outdoors and have a passion for plants in their natural environment then this job is for you.

Reporting to the operations manager, you will be responsible for assisting in the successful development of our tree and shrub container production area. In addition, you may be required to assist in the day-to-day activities of the greenhouse facilities as needed. Tipi Mountain Native Plants collects all its propagation material from the local area which means that you will be integral in meeting our native seed collection quotas. Skills and traits which would be valuable assets for this position include:

- Previous nursery/greenhouse experience
- Native plant identification
- Ability to work in the field unsupervised
- Good physical condition and work ethic
- Valid drivers license and reliable vehicle
- Level 1 First Aid or equivalent

In order to qualify for this position you must have graduated from a recognised university within the last 2 years and be 30 or under at the time of the position starting. We are seeking to fill this position rapidly so please do not delay in your application.

Please send your resume ASAP to: [jenn@tipimountain.com](mailto:jenn@tipimountain.com)

### ***BC Grasslands Council has new Executive Director***

The BC Grasslands Council has welcomed its new Executive Director, Bob Moody. Bob is replacing Bruno Delasalle, who was with the group since 1999. Bob is also the instructor for our upcoming "Aboriginal Cultural Awareness for Natural Resource Managers" course, April 20-21 in Revelstoke. For more information [read the press release](#).

## **Conferences**

### **Plant Invasions in a Changing World**

Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee 2010 Speakers' Series & Annual General Meeting

April 13, 2010

Castlegar City Forum, Castlegar BC

You are invited to learn about invasive plants and contribute to the work of CKIPC in the coming year. This year's meeting includes these speakers:

- Predictions for Climate Change in the Kootenays, by Deb MacKillop
- West Kootenay Intact Ecosystems Project, Thomas Hill
- Recipe for a Weed: Invasive reed canarygrass, Valerie Huff
- Invasive Aquatics: Gateways and indicators, Dave Caswell

Registration is required: Please contact [coordinator@kootenayweeds.com](mailto:coordinator@kootenayweeds.com) or 250-352-1160.