

Archived CMI Member Bulletins

December 2004 to January 2007

For the sake of brevity, these archived updates have been edited. Most time-sensitive Items have been omitted.

CMI Members' update for December 14, 2004

1. CMI News

Things are pretty busy around here because we are planning SEVEN events in the next two years. Plus there are other smaller projects coming and going. Bearing in mind that most of these events are still in the planning stages and we don't have much detail for the events further in the future, here's a list of what's coming up.

April 26-27, 2005 - Implications of Climate Change in BC's Southern Interior Forests workshop

April 26, 2005 - CMI AGM (no Researchers' Meeting this year)

Last week of May 2005 - Statistics Refresher Course for Biologists

June 2005 - Identification and Protection of Critical Habitat for Species at Risk workshop

Fall 2005 - Creating Bear Aware Communities workshop

Spring 2006 - Mountain Caribou Conference

Fall 2006 - Grizzly Bear Conference

Note that we aren't planning an Annual Researchers' Meeting this year. We figure that lots of you will be at the Climate Change conference, and won't want to travel twice in the same month for a CMI event. We will have the Annual General Meeting at some point during those two days. You don't have to be registered for the conference to attend the AGM.

The Stats Refresher course will be very similar to the one we offered in May 2004, and the Creating Bear Aware Communities workshop will be similar to the one we offered in November 2001. Check the "Past Workshops" section of our web site for details on what we did last time.

Many thanks to CMI Member Alice Weber of Revelstoke, who was able to de-mystify my understandings of PowerPoint templates and masters. CMI now has a standard show that can be used by the Directors to introduce the society.

Speaking of PowerPoint, we all know how important it is to be able to put together a good presentation. But most of us just slog our way through the program and we miss the finer points of what makes a good show. Thanks to John Woods we will be bringing you a "Power Point Tip of the Month" from now on (see the end of this bulletin for your first Tip!) and after a few months I will archive them on the web site. If you'd like to contribute a one-paragraph PowerPoint tip, or other presentation tips, please send them to office@cmiae.org.

2. Changes to BC Conservation Data Centre Plant Community Listings

The BC Conservation Data Centre's list of natural plant community elements has been extensively revised. Changes to Provincial Conservation Status ranks, names, and relationships to the Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification, and addition of some Global Conservation Status ranks and new plant communities, are all part of the revisions. For background on the revisions, and access to lists of the changes see the Endangered Species and Ecosystems 2004 Changes web page:

<http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/changes.htm>

For access to new Forest District lists of natural plant communities, see the BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer Natural Plant Community Help web page: <http://srmapps.gov.bc.ca/apps/eswp/help.do?helpType=NPC>

To search for natural plant communities see the BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer Natural Plant Community search web page: <http://srmapps.gov.bc.ca/apps/eswp/search.do?searchType=NPC>

3. Internet Resources

BC Government Databases

We always knew the internet was a good way to disperse information! Take a look at these web sites from the BC Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management and the Ministry of Forests. These are one-stop listings of the different databases available from both ministries.

<http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/tib/>
http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/library/lib_db.htm

Google's New Search Engine

Google has released a new search engine to search for scientific articles. Google Scholar enables you to search for peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, reprints, abstracts and technical reports from all broad areas of research. Check it out at: <http://scholar.google.com>. Since it searches the literature in all disciplines, be sure you choose your keywords carefully or you will get thousands of returns. Read "About Google Scholar" on the above web page to find out how they go about listing articles.

4. New Reports

Performance Indices for Highway Crossings for Large Mammals

Tony Clevenger's new paper titled "Performance indices to identify attributes of highway crossing structures facilitating movement of large mammals" came out in Biological Conservation 121 (2005) pp 453-464. You can view the abstract at: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/> and type in the name of the journal, then the issue #121.

Climate Change & Water Management in the Okanagan Basin

On November 30, 2004 Environment Canada and Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada released a three year study report entitled "Expanding the Dialogue on Climate Change & Water Management in the Okanagan Basin, British Columbia". Contents of the report included scientific findings of global warming resulting in reductions in regional water supplies and increases in water demand for irrigation and residential needs in the Okanagan. A summary of the report is available at: <http://www.climatechange.gc.ca/english/publications/okanagan/> with the complete report available at http://www.ires.ubc.ca/downloads/publications/layout_Okanagan_final.pdf

5. Courses

Ecological Monitoring Using Remote Sensing and GIS
Selkirk College, Castlegar
May 11-13, 2005

Integrating principles of remote sensing in ecological and environmental modeling, the focus will be on analysing plant and animal habitats and conservation actions using remote sensing and GIS. Analysis and mapping will be conducted using PCI Geomatica and ESRI's ArcGIS 9. For more information go to: http://selkirk.ca/learning/continuing/course_detail.asp?cecourseid=1044

6. PowerPoint Tip #1

Keep your photograph file sizes as small as possible. With today's high resolution cameras and scans, it's easy to have your show bog down by unnecessarily huge file sizes. Take a few moments to re-size your images before you insert them in a PowerPoint. The rule of thumb is that they need to be no larger than your computer screen (and LCD projector) can display them. It is often possible to take a 1 megabyte *.tif file and turn it into a 100 kilobyte *.jpg file with no apparent loss of image quality on the screen. You'll need to look at the re-sizing options on your software to see exactly how to do this -- but resizing to 1024 x 768 with 72 dpi is a good place to start. The ultimate test is to display them on your screen to make sure they still look great. If they look okay on your screen, they will be okay in your show.

CMI Members' update for January 5, 2005

1. Climate Change Impacts in BC

Here's a quote from the new "Weather, Climate and the Future: B.C.'s Plan", produced by BC Water Lands and Air Protection in December 16, 2004:

"Projected impacts for B.C. include reduced snow pack in southern B.C. and at mid-elevations, an earlier spring meltwater surge on many snow-dominated river systems, reduced summer stream flows and soil moisture in some regions, glacial retreat and disappearance in southern B.C., an increase in the weather conditions that support fire and pest outbreaks and other disturbances, and loss of some wetland and alpine ecosystems. Also projected are changes in the frequency and/or severity of drought, high intensity rainfall, flooding, coastal storms, and other extreme weather events."

If these words strike you as rather significant, and you'd like to know more, you need to register for our April 2005 workshop titled "Implications of Climate Change for BC's Southern Interior Forests". Look on our web site at www.cmiae.org and follow the links to the workshop information, including a speaker list and the registration form.

The full plan as released by WLAP is available at:

<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/air/climate/>

2. BCIT Offers On-Line Course on Managing for Ecological Integrity in BC Parks and Protected Areas

Many of the province's protected areas are faced with issues and challenges that are threatening their ecological health. If you work in or around parks and protected areas, or have an interest in the future of our system of protected areas, you need to know what ecological integrity means and how park agencies are hoping to achieve their management goals. The classroom version of this course was delivered in 2001 to all BC Parks staff as a 3.5 day seminar. Through a partnership with BCIT, the course has been converted to an on-line learning format.

If you are interested in participating please register directly online by going to the following web address:

<http://www.bcit.ca/study/courses/prks3410>

3. PowerPoint Tip #2:

Save your finished shows as a PowerPoint 'Show' rather than a 'Presentation'. Almost everyone saves the last edit of their PowerPoint as a presentation--you'll recognize it by the *.ppt extension on the file name. We do this because this is the format we use to edit the show on our home computers. However, if you do a "save as" and then select "show" (generates file extension *.pps) rather than presentation (*.ppt), your show will be saved in a file that can be run on any computer--you don't need to have compatible versions of PowerPoint on it. This is a great stress reliever when travelling to a conference and wondering if everything will run okay.

CMI Members' update for January 18, 2005

1. CMI News

We welcome Rob Serrouya as our newest holder of a CMI Researchers' Memorandum of Understanding. Currently we are assisting Rob with an application to the Endangered Species Recovery Fund, for his project Quantifying forest stand and landscape attributes that influence mountain caribou habitat fragmentation.

2. Ancillary Benefits of Re-Vegetating the Upper Arrow Reservoir Drawdown Zone

After ten years of seeding the Upper Arrow Reservoir drawdown zone to control dust, BC Hydro investigated the ancillary benefits of this program. They have released a CD containing the reports documenting the return of plant communities and wildlife to this area immediately south of Revelstoke. (Those of you who attended the CMI's 2002 Annual Researchers' Meeting heard presentations based on these reports.) Thanks to Ed Hill at BC Hydro, the entire CD with all the reports can now be downloaded from our web site. It's a BIG file, 36MB when zipped. Go to www.cmiae.org and look in Research Highlights, then go to the Biodiversity category, and click on the link. If you have trouble downloading this file, please call me at the CMI office.

3. New Publication on Grasslands

Gayton, D. (2004) Native and non-native plant species in grazed grasslands of British Columbia's southern interior. BC Journal of Ecosystems and Management 5(1): 51-59

Available online at: <http://www.forrex.org/jem/2004/vol5/no1/art6.pdf>

Abstract:

Herbaceous vegetation on 17 native grassland sites in southeastern British Columbia were assessed for their proportion of native and non-native plant species. All sites were on grazed Crown rangeland, and found within the Ponderosa Pine and Interior Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zones. Vegetation cover values for individual species were aggregated into native and non-native categories. Values for non-native herbaceous species at the 17 sites ranged from 0 to 84% of total herbaceous cover, with an average of 35%. When compared to ungrazed controls, results varied by site. Managers of these grasslands should review and adjust current practices to discourage not only noxious weeds, but all non-native species.

4. Meetings and Workshops

Interested in White Sturgeon?

Fisheries and Oceans Canada invites you to attend a community dialogue session in Castlegar to discuss the Species At Risk Act (SARA) legal listing of White Sturgeon. The community dialogue will provide information and seek feedback.

Wednesday, January 19, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Monte Carlo Motor Inn, 1935 Columbia Avenue in Castlegar.

For more information call 604.666.0646, or email sara@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

17th Annual North American Wolf Conference: Call for Papers

Pray, Montana

April 19 - 21, 2005

Papers are now being accepted for the 2005 North American Wolf Conference. The 2005 conference theme "A Decade After Reintroduction: Wolf Conservation, Conflicts and Collaboration," highlights the 10th anniversary of the wolf reintroduction to Idaho and Yellowstone. Closing date for abstracts is February 16. More information at:

<http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=18446>

Wetlands Institute - course

July 3-9, 2005

Victoria, BC

Participants will learn wetland mapping, inventory, and restoration techniques, all placed in a community context. The Wetlands Institute focuses on project development and implementation. Participants interested in building and implementing a plan for a wetland education, conservation or restoration project in their own community are encouraged to apply.

More information at:

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

CMI members' update for February 3, 2005

1. CMI News

Constitutional Reform

The Directors are doing a tune-up of our society's bylaws and considering whether the constitution needs some changes. In the ten years since the constitution was written, we have become more of an educational institution than a research institution, and this should be reflected in our constitution. Bylaw changes relate to the use of email or faxes to notify members of meetings. If the Directors recommend changes, members will be asked to approve them by mail-in ballot prior to the Annual General Meeting in April. (We don't hold votes at our AGM because we recognize that our far-flung membership can't all make it to the AGM.)

2. Mountain Caribou Web Site

The Revelstoke Caribou Recovery Committee, a local recovery group in Revelstoke, has prepared a internet resource about mountain caribou which includes the key information on government reports, census results, research papers, maps, a film clip, and other links to the

latest information on mountain caribou. One stop shopping, so to speak, at www.cityofrevelstoke.com/caribou .

3. Botanical Electronic News (BEN)

If you are a plant person you may wish to subscribe to the list serv "Botanical Electronic News" compiled by Dr. Adolf Ceska in Victoria. Includes nomenclature, reviews of new books, course information, and lots more. Even includes the cultural aspects of botany – the last bulletin was devoted to portrayal of botanists in our past and present, and the role of botany in popular movies!

Subscriptions: <http://victoria.tc.ca/mailman/listinfo/ben-l>

Send submissions to aceska@telus.net

BEN is archived at <http://www.ou.edu/cas/botany-micro/ben/>

4. Integrated Pest Management Act Now in Force

The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection administers the British Columbia Integrated Pest Management Act and Regulations, which: regulates the sale, use and handling of pesticides in the province; and promotes an Integrated Pest Management approach to managing pests. The Integrated Pest Management Act received Royal Assent in October, 2003 and came into force on December 31, 2004. The Act and Regulation can be viewed at the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection's IPM website at the following address:

<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/ipmp/index.html>

5. BC Mountain Goat Workshop

Prince George, British Columbia

March 1-2, 2005

The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, in partnership with the Peace/Williston Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, is hosting a BC Mountain Goat Workshop. During workshop, biologists and managers will exchange information on the current state of mountain goat research and management in British Columbia, and discuss future research needs and key management issues. Best management practices, key management issues and research needs identified during the workshop will be used to assist in developing a provincial Mountain Goat Management Plan. An evening presentation by guest speaker Dr. Steve Cote will be given during a group dinner on March 1. The workshop format will be topic oriented, with presentations by invited speakers followed by a group discussion period focusing on key management issues and research needs. Session topics include Aerial Disturbance, Forest Harvesting, Habitat Supply Modeling, Population Inventory, and Management. Proceedings of the workshop will include presentation summaries, and a synthesis of the key management issues, research needs, and action priorities for each session topic. For more information on the workshop, contact Ian Hatter, Provincial Ungulate Specialist at 250-387-9792 ian.hatter@gems6.gov.bc.ca or Mari Wood, Peace/Williston Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program at 250-565-4191 Mari.Wood@gems7.gov.bc.ca .

CMI Members' update for March 3, 2005

1. CMI News

Registrations are now coming in for our Implications of Climate Change in BC's Southern Interior Forests workshop. We have a limit of 150 people for this event, so please don't wait until the last minute to register. We have lined up the experts to speak about shifting biogeoclimatic zones, implications for fire, insects, caribou, and biodiversity; Ministry of Forests policy, and more. I now have most of the abstracts in hand so if you'd like to see them please let me know.

2. Info Sessions on Lake Fertilization Programs

The Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program is hosting information sessions on its lake fertilization programs in the north arm of Kootenay Lake and the Arrow Lakes Reservoir. Learn what is involved and what the results have been, and give them your thoughts on the fertilization program. Meetings start with an open house at 6:30 p.m. and are followed by a public presentation at 7:00 p.m. Dates and locations are:

March 7, Nelson Municipal Library, Victoria Street.

March 6, Kaslo Community Hall

March 14, Revelstoke Community Centre

For more information call the CBFWCP at 250 352-6874 or visit <http://www.cbfishwildlife.org/>

3. List Serv for University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group

The climate update list serve provides a means for individuals to receive periodic research updates, meeting announcements, and other information related to planning for climate variability and change in the Pacific Northwest from the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group. The Climate Impacts Group pays attention to the Canadian portion of the Columbia Basin. Join the list serv at <http://mailman1.u.washington.edu/mailman/listinfo/climateupdate> Some of you will remember Alan Hamlet and Philip Mote from this group; they presented at our Climate Change in the Columbia Basin workshop in 2003. You can visit the Climate Impacts Group web site at <http://www.cses.washington.edu/cig/>

4. Workshops

Researchers in Humanities, Social Sciences, Fine Arts, Business, and Education are needed to develop environmental research projects in the South Okanagan.

Friday, March 18, 2005, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Penticton Campus, Okanagan University College
583 Duncan Ave W, Penticton BC

The South Okanagan-Similkameen region of British Columbia has been identified as one of the most endangered ecosystems in Canada. The region is under pressure from urban and agricultural development, as well as the creation of a new national park. The South Okanagan is home to at least 42 species of plants and animals that are currently listed as nationally endangered, threatened or vulnerable. The human and natural worlds are in collision. Academic research in the South Okanagan has been dominated by scientific study and community - driven habitat preservation and rehabilitation projects. The goal of this workshop is to spark interest in conservation research projects amongst groups of academics who might not normally consider ecologically-focussed studies and publications. Humanities, Social Science, Fine Arts, Education and Business creative, critical and analytical skills are needed. At least three of the research clusters for The University of British Columbia Okanagan focus on the environment 1) Creativity, Culture and Community-- Economy, Culture and Space; 2) Indigenous Studies; 3) Sustainability.

For information on registration, guest speakers, and the schedule of events, go to www.artsecology.org .

Phone Nancy Holmes at (250) 494-0439 for more information, or email nholmes@ouc.bc.ca .

The Land Trust & Stewardship Seminar Series 2005

March 17-20, 2005

Naramata Centre

Each year, the Land Trust Alliance of BC hosts a Seminar Series for people interested in stewardship and conservation. The public is invited to take part in workshops and presentations on legal tools for land protection, including conservation covenants, First Nations stewardship experiences, stewardship options on farmland and in urban areas, new funding strategies, and changes to environmental and species protection legislation. Site visits to nearby stewardship projects will give participants a chance to see some of the Okanagan's exciting conservation initiatives at work, and will also give a sense for some of the common challenges to conservation in this area. A 1.5-day pre-conference Baseline Inventory Monitoring workshop is offered on March 17-18th. The LTA will help with travel arrangements. Travel subsidies are available.

For all the details visit: www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca/seminarseries.html

5. PowerPoint Tips

Keep to approximately one minute per slide -- Keep your audience visually stimulated by change slides at least once a minute.

Minimize the number of bullets per slide -- Split your points up onto several slides, and keep on changing 'em!

Minimize the number of words per slide --Your slide should be a summary of your key "take home" points, not a word-by-word account of your talk. If you find yourself reading verbatim from your slide, that's a danger signal. (Read from your hand held notes, but not from the slide.)

Minimize use of animation between slides and other bells and whistles -- These can be distracting and interfere with the flow of thoughts.

CMI Members' update for April 5, 2005

1. CMI News

Over the winter the CMI Directors re-drafted the CMI's Constitution and Bylaws. These documents were prepared about ten years ago, and it's time for them to be updated. The revisions, as recommended by our Directors, will be sent to you along with a mail-in ballot. Most of our membership won't be attending the Annual General Meeting on April 26 so we prefer to use the postal system for your approval for the revisions.

About half of the 150 seats available at the "Implications of Climate Change in BC's Southern Interior Forests" workshop are taken. If you plan to register please do so soon, as we expect registrations to pick up quickly now that "March Madness" is over and the new fiscal year has started for many of you.

2. Best Management Practices for Recreation Activities on Grasslands Now Available

Best Management Practices for Recreation Activities on Grasslands is now available at the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection's Guidelines and Best Management Practices website: http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/grasslands_th_ok_bmp.pdf

The Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia, in partnership with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection facilitated the development of this document with a wide range of commercial and non-commercial recreation interests. The BMP document was developed with input and careful review from over 40 organizations resulting in a comprehensive code of practice developed by the user, for the user. The BMP document focuses on: grasslands in the Thompson and Okanagan Basins ('interior grasslands'); 12 recreational activity types; and both motorized and non-motorized forms of recreation.

3. Web Mapping Application of the Species at Risk Web Site is now online

On December 16th 2004, the Web Mapping Application of the Species at Risk Web Site was re-activated. The main purpose of this web mapping application is to assist users to identify endangered, threatened, and special concern species that occur in geographic areas of interest (Currently only SARA Schedule 1 species are available, as this remains work in progress). The application interface and base data has been improved, but more importantly, the species distribution data has been completely revised for greater quality and consistency. To access the Species at Risk Web Mapping Application, please go to: http://www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca/map/default_e.cfm.

4. New Book

Biological Control of Invasive Plants of the United States
Edited by Eric M. Coombs, Janet K. Clark, Gary L. Piper, and Alfred F. Cofrancesco, Jr.
2004. 448 pages. Full-color photographs. Paperback, \$45.00 (US)

<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/press/a-b/BioControl.html>

Undesirable invasive plants are infesting public and private lands and waterways in the US at an alarming rate. Various methods are used to suppress these non-native weeds, from herbicides to burning to cultivation. Classical biological control-in which selected host-specific, plant-attacking insects, mites, nematodes, and pathogens are introduced from the invasive plant's native lands provides an additional tool for land managers. In this book, leading experts review the discipline of biological control of invasive terrestrial and aquatic plants. Topics addressed include ecology, safety testing, non-target impacts, and the processes of identifying, introducing, distributing, and monitoring biological control agents.

5. Workshops and Courses

Managing Forested Viewscapes: Public Expectations, Operational Challenges and International Perspective
April 19-20, 2005
Kamloops, BC

The objective of this conference is to share information about visual impact issues in a variety of domestic and international jurisdictions. The event will provide practitioners with the latest information on innovative operational approaches, research results, and BC's visual resource management framework. Over the course of two days, using a mix of plenary and concurrent sessions, they will focus on take-home messages by presenting information on key issues relevant to both practitioners and researchers. For details visit:

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/fordev/conference.htm>

Canadian Youth Climate Change Conference
July 3-6, 2005
Royal Roads University, Victoria BC

Climate Change is the challenge of a generation and the opportunity of a lifetime. This summer, 15-20 years olds will join inspiring world leaders to develop solutions to climate change. Objectives of the workshop are: give youth the knowledge of the root causes of climate change; challenge youth to rethink how society operates, searching for sustainable alternatives; give youth the support structure, tool kit, and mentorship to develop Action Plans; create an active network of Canadian youth to support effective action after the event. For details go to:

<http://www.yc3.net/>

Announcement and Call for Papers
Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network
National Science Meeting
November 20-26, 2005
Penticton, British Columbia

Environment Canada's Ecological Monitoring & Assessment Network Coordinating Office is pleased to announce the Call for Papers and Posters for the 2005 EMAN National Science Meeting to take place November 20-26 in Penticton, BC. Building on the results of the 2004 meeting in Quebec City (summary at <http://www.eman-rese.ca/eman/reports/meetings/national2004/summary.html>), the theme of the 2005 meeting will be Sustainability at the Landscape Scale: Supporting the Process through Multi-party Stakeholder Participation

Papers are also sought to contribute toward the following special sessions held in conjunction with the EMAN science meeting:

- The Canadian Society of Landscape Ecology and Management Annual Meeting; and,
- Workshop on Monitoring Alien Species in the Urban/Forest Interface

For details go to:

<http://www.eman-rese.ca/eman/>

CMI members' update for May 5, 2005

1. CMI News

Annual General Meeting and Annual Report

Our AGM was held on April 26 as part of the climate change workshop. We reviewed the Annual Report, which is now available on-line at www.cmiae.org in the About CMI section. Note that the on-line version does not include the financial statement. The statement is available to members - just call me at the office. We also announced the results of the vote for our revised Constitution and Bylaws. The new versions were approved. You can view the new Constitution on-line, www.cmiae.org in the About CMI section.

Directors for 2005-2006

Three of our Directors have retired from their positions. Many thanks to Garth Mowat and Ed Hill for serving terms as CMI Directors and thanks also to Bruce McLellan, who was a founding Director when CMI was established ten years ago. CMI relies heavily on the expertise and energy of its volunteer Board, and we are grateful for the time that these three folks have put into our organization.

We welcome a new Director to our Board. Evelyn Hamilton is Manager of Wildlife and Range for the Ministry of Forests, in Victoria. Evelyn has her finger on the pulse of many research projects across the province and will be a key person in keeping our events connected to current issues and research. Evelyn also brings her personal interest in non-timber forest products.

Our list of Directors for 2005-2006 is as follows:

- Ian Adams - President
- Karen Bray
- Patrick Daigle
- Jenny Feick
- Evelyn Hamilton

- Susan Hall - Secretary
- Rachel Holt
- Ian Parfitt
- Chris Steeger
- Del Williams - Treasurer
- Brendan Wilson – Vice President
- Guy Woods
- John Woods

Implications of Climate Change in BC's Southern Interior Forests Workshop

About 115 registrants (plus two classes of Revelstoke high school students that dropped in for a few hours to see what a science conference is like) attended our workshop. Participants heard what the climate models are predicting, what the implications are for flora, fauna, and ecosystems, and heard about approaches on how to plan for an uncertain future. A workshop summary will be available as a free download at our web site in a month or so. Take home messages? Climate change is definitely happening; ecosystems will unravel and BEC zones will take a long time to re-establish in new areas, if they do at all; identify where your resources and management plans are vulnerable to climate change and develop coping strategies; plan for uncertainty.

2. Job Postings

The RNS Newsletter (see item further down in today's update) lists the following sites as places to check for environment-related job postings. They may not have postings at present but check back regularly. Postings are for a variety of skill levels.

Society Promoting Environmental Conservation

www.spec.bc.ca/job/index.php

The Land Conservancy

www.conservancy.bc.ca/regioncontent.php?regionack=vi&ionack=employment

Civic Info BC

www.civicinfo.bc.ca/16.asp

Canadian Environmental Jobs site

www.canadianenvironmental.com/envirojobs/

Jobs for Nature and Heritage Interpreters and Eco Tour Guides

www.naturepark.com/jobs/

Jobs in Environmental Companies in British Columbia

www.ejobs.org/states/brccom.html

British Columbia Government Postings site

www.postings.gov.bc.ca/index.html

Federal Government search site

www.jobsetc.ca/toolbox/job_search/jobSearch.do?lang=e

Federal Government

http://www.jobs-emplois.gc.ca/menu/alljobs_e.htm

3. Mountain Caribou Sightings near Revelstoke

The local Revelstoke Caribou Recovery Committee has been collecting information on caribou sightings in the Revelstoke area. This is anecdotal information but it's a way of keeping "the locals" aware of where the caribou are and what they are doing. Del Williams at the Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation has compiled the 34 sightings into a spread sheet, and you can ask him for a copy (del@rcfc.bc.ca). He can describe how the sightings are collected.

4. Maps Web site – Zoomable satellite views of North America

www.maps.google.com

This web site is a simple but neat site that would be suitable for school children or ecologists who are satellite photo junkies. It provides street maps of North America (sort of like Mapquest) but the fun part is to then switch to the satellite version of the same map. Zoom in on the area you'd like to see, using the street and highway maps to get you fairly close. Then click on the word "satellite" in the top right hand corner. The highway map switches to a satellite map. Cool! Some areas, for example Greater Vancouver, have higher definition satellite photos. You can see the trees in front of people's houses.

5. Publications of Interest

Partners in Flight North American Landbird Conservation Plan

This plan provides a continental synthesis of priorities and objective that will guide landbird conservation actions at national and international scales. The scope for this Plan is the 448 species of native landbirds that regularly breed in the U.S. and Canada. To view the plan, go to:

http://www.partnersinflight.org/cont_plan/default.htm

Restoration of Natural Ecosystems Newsletter

<http://web.uvic.ca/~emj/rns/>

Recent CMI Member Eva Johansson produces a very interesting on-line newsletter out of the Restoration of Natural Systems Program at the University of Victoria. Current and archived issues of the RNS newsletter are available at the above web site address. Contact Eva at rnseditor@uvcs.uvic.ca to be notified each time a newsletter is posted.

New e-journal: Sustainability: Science, Practice, & Policy
(I picked this item up from the RNS newsletter, as noted above)

Sustainability: Science, Practice, & Policy, a new peer-reviewed, open access journal, has launched publication. The purpose of this project is to develop a Sustainability Science database that examines the countless interactions of all living entities, especially humans, with the Earth and its environment. Accessible at <http://ejournal.nbii.org/>, the e-journal provides a platform for the dissemination of new practices and for dialogue emerging out of the field of sustainability. It is published as part of an ambitious government/private industry partnership between the USGS-coordinated National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) www.nbii.gov and NBII partner CSA www.csa.com.

FORREX's Streamline Watershed Management Bulletin
Spring 2005 issue now available online

Download it at:

http://www.forrex.org/Streamline/ISS29/streamline_vol8_no2.pdf

The contents of Vol. 8 No. 2 are:

Salt Dilution Gauging for Streamflow Measurement Part III - Slug Injection Using Salt in Solution
An Inexpensive, Automatic Gravity-fed Water Sampler for Investigating Water Quality in Small Streams
Live Gravel Bar Staking Channel Stabilization in the Lower Elk River
A Qualitative Hydro-Geomorphologic Risk Analysis for British Columbia's Interior Watersheds: A Discussion Paper
Re-creating Meandering Streams in the Central Oregon Coast Range, USA
Results of Streamline Reader Survey 2004
Update - Events / New Publications

6. Workshops and Courses

Sensitive Habitat Inventory Mapping Course (SHIM)

May, 2005 (Three Days)

Selkirk College, Castlegar

Selkirk College is collecting names of people who want this course. Call Louise Porto (lporto@selkirk.ca or (250) 365-7292 x348) to express your interest.

The SHIM method is a standard for fish and aquatic habitat mapping in urban and rural watersheds in British Columbia. This course teaches the participant to collect data using global position systems (GPS) and map reliable, high quality, current, and spatially accurate information about local freshwater habitats and watercourses. Requirements: GPS Training for Field Operators. Fee: \$400 (includes all manuals and materials)

Workshop on Post-Wildfire Watershed Rehabilitation in BC
June 8, 2005
Kelowna, BC

This workshop focuses on post-wildfire watershed rehabilitation techniques in a British Columbia context. The workshop will present case studies on the effects of wildfire on watershed processes and detail the efficiency and types of rehabilitation techniques applied in BC. Workshop talks will also examine the effectiveness of post-wildfire rehabilitation techniques used in other jurisdictions (i.e., PNW USA). Although the focus of the workshop is on water and soil resources, other issues germane to the successful application of rehabilitation techniques in BC (e.g., ecosystem, vegetation, and biodiversity) will be discussed.

More information: http://www.forrex.org/events/Post_Wildfire_Rehabilitation_Workshop_First_Announcement.pdf

Contact person: Robin Pike robin.pike@forrex.org phone (250) 387-5887

Canadian Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Network – Annual Meeting
September 16-19, 2005.
Ottawa ON

Presentations and posters for the CARCNET annual meeting are open to all aspects of the conservation biology of amphibians and reptiles and herpetological research (e.g., population and metapopulation dynamics, genetics, diseases, commercial harvest, status assessment, recovery plans, monitoring, habitat protection, etc.). Presentations on public education projects and ethics are also welcome. For more information about CARCNET and (limited) information about the 2005 annual meeting, please visit <http://www.carcnet.ca/>

CMI Members' email update for June 13, 2005

1. CMI News

CMI Executive Positions

The following people have accepted positions on the CMI Executive committee:

- Brendan Wilson, President
- Ian Adams, Vice President
- Del Williams, Treasurer
- Susan Hall, Secretary.

Our Statistics for Biologists Refresher Courses are both finished. We held a course in Revelstoke on May 31-June 2 and another in Castlegar on June 7-9. (The course in Castlegar was held at the request of the Golder office located there, and we filled the extra spots with people on the standby list for the Revelstoke course.) Dr. Carl Schwarz, the professor from SFU who instructs the course, is developing more courses for staff at the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. CMI will eventually be able to make them available to non-government people. These include one or multiple day courses on mark-recapture, trend analysis, and analysis of time-series data.

Should CMI events become "Carbon Neutral"?

At our April workshop titled "Implications of Climate Change in BC's Southern Interior Forests", a participant approached me to ask whether CMI had considered a carbon-neutral policy for our events. The answer is: no, we haven't. Although the concept is commendable it's hard to think beyond carpooling as a practical answer. But perhaps there is a CMI member who would like to think more on this, and draft up a few ideas? Please contact Jackie at the CMI office 250-837-9311 if you are interested. Here are two web sites to get you thinking:

http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate_Change/What_You_Can_Do/carbon_neutral.asp

<http://www.cerc04.org/energy/index.html>

Upcoming CMI Events

Identification of Critical Habitat for Species at Risk - October 18-20 2005 at Cranbrook
Communications Planning for Species at Risk - October 20 2005 at Cranbrook, in partnership with FORREX
Creating Bear Smart Communities - November 2-3, 2005 Revelstoke
GPS Collars and Wildlife Studies - May 9-10, at Castlegar, Selkirk College in partnership with CMI
Recovering Caribou Populations in Mountain Ecosystems - Late May 2006, event in planning stages.

Bear Conservation in a Fast-Changing North America - October 24-27 2006, Revelstoke, event in early planning stage.

2. Climate, Decision-Making, and Biodiversity Research Project

The objective of a new research project at the University of British Columbia is to aid decision-making for forestry, fisheries, and biodiversity preservation in British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest, within the context of climate change. One of the projects being developed is for biodiversity preservation and parks along the US-Canada border in the Rockies and Purcell Ranges. The research will examine three specific locations involving different kinds of land use and protected area planning for: potential park expansion; land use next to an existing ecological reserve; and the influence of a new large-scale ski area on an existing wilderness park. For more information, contact Dr. Tim McDaniels, Institute for Resources, Environment, and Sustainability, UBC, 604-822-9288, timmcd@interchange.ubc.ca. The project is part of a wider collaboration between UBC and Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh. You can see more at www.cdmc.epp.cmu.edu/.

3. Documents On-Line

Climate Change Adaptation for Park Managers

This article reviews past, current, and future climate change to make the point that climate change is real and inevitable. The bulk of the article then summarizes relevant and feasible actions that ecosystem managers may consider in adapting to climate change. Welch, D., 2005. What should protected areas managers do in the face of climate change? *George Wright Forum* 22(1):75-93. You can download a PDF version from www.georgewright.org. Click the link to the Forum journal and scroll down the page.

Best Management Practices for Amphibians and Reptiles in Urban and Rural Environments in BC

http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/wld/BMP/herptile/HerptileBMP_final.pdf (PDF 620KB)

This is a comprehensive information source and guide. It sets out Best Management Practices designed to help maintain the viability of native amphibian and reptile populations in urban and rural areas of British Columbia subject to land development activities. Its primary purpose is to provide developers, consultants, landscape architects, local and regional governments, urban planners, land use managers and the public with the practical, cost-effective tools and supporting scientific information necessary for mitigating development activity impacts on amphibian and reptile populations in the province. Although often highly modified, urban and rural habitats can still provide important habitat for reptile species and amphibians. Measures to help maintain the viability of these native wildlife species are described in this report.

Invasive Alien Species Framework for BC: Identifying and Addressing Threats to Biodiversity (PDF 1.77MB)

http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/alien_species_framework_BC_0205.pdf

This is a background document on invasive alien species issues that affect biodiversity in British Columbia. It sets out a framework for the use of science, and coordinated involvement of partners, to address the threats to BC's environment and economy posed by invasive alien species. Conservation biologists have globally ranked invasive alien species as the second most serious threat to species at risk after habitat destruction. Collaborative leadership, organization, and action are key to addressing invasive alien species concerns in British Columbia.

BC Reptiles web site

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

This website is hosted by Thompson Rivers University and BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. It was designed to provide information on British Columbia's reptiles to members of the public, devoted naturalists, professionals, students, and even young children with an interest in these animals. Includes recommendations for field books and other web sites.

4. Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee – New Group Forms

The Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee recently formed because of concerns about invasive plants in the region. This non-profit society is comprised of government, utility companies, NGO's, and members at large and is focused on raising awareness about invasive plants and their impacts on local ecosystems. The Committee will undertake activities from Creston to Rossland and north to Nakusp, including developing extension materials (e.g. brochure, website, display booth), conducting inventories of highly invasive plant species, and promoting a collaborative approach to management. For more information on the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee, call 250-352-1160, invasiveplants@uniserve.com.

5. Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies - Web Site Opens

<http://www.wildlifebc.org>

The primary function of the Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies is to operate and maintain the Wildlife Data Centre, the location for gathering, compiling, archiving, and summarizing information on wildlife in British Columbia. The initial concept for establishing a central repository for all wildlife information in British Columbia was originally conceived by Wayne Campbell and Michael Preston in 1998. In August 2004, after years of gathering information from the public domain, the Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies was formally established. The formation of the Society was based on the recognition that no registered society or government agency in British Columbia was presently compiling and archiving historical and current information on all wildlife in the province. By recognizing the need for information to make informed decisions about wildlife conservation and management, the Society was formed to fulfill this need by way of a comprehensive collection of wildlife information.

6. Workshops and Courses

Restoration of Freshwater Aquatic Systems (course)

July 11-15, 05

University of Victoria

The objective of this one week course in Restoration of Freshwater Aquatic Systems will be to discuss and review the different physical/chemical/biological components of a number of general freshwater systems including: Riparian areas, Streams, Rivers, Lakes, Wetlands, Offchannel areas, and Estuaries. Our course will be a combination of understanding function and dysfunction, approaches used to identify disturbance/degradation and develop of a tool kit of potential restoration strategies and specific techniques used in freshwater aquatic systems. More information from: Mark Johannes, 250-472-4569 at UVIC, mark@fishclimate.ca.

Seeing the Forest Beneath the Trees: An introductory workshop on non-timber forest products

July 5-6, 2005 East Kootenay Workshop at College of the Rockies

July 7-8, 2005 West Kootenay Workshop at Selkirk College

BC forest communities are seeking new sources of long-term economic well being. Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) include wild foods, decorative greens, ecotourism, natural health products and native plants for landscaping and restoration. This two day workshop will provide an introduction to this diverse sector, including how to recognize plant species, wreath and tincture making demonstrations, how we can incorporate NTFPs into forest management and the economy, and a hands-on demonstration of community-based NTFP inventory. This workshop will be of interest to entrepreneurs, forest land owners and managers, and community development organizations both aboriginal and non-aboriginal. Presented by: Kootenays Forest Innovation Society and the Centre for Non-Timber Resources Workshop at Royal Roads University. Price: \$119.00 with limited scholarships available. For more information, view our website at www.kfis.ca or contact Michael Keefer Email (preferred): Mkeefe@kfis.ca.

Centre for Non-Timber Forest Products Hosts Events

August 25-29, 2005

Victoria BC

An international Non-Timber Forest Products conference and trade show attracting non-timber forest resource experts and exhibitors from around the world and throughout BC is being hosted by Royal Roads University in Victoria. Details are at <http://www.ntfpconference.ca>.

The event includes:

- A Future Beneath the Trees Symposium: An International Symposium on Non-timber Forest Products, Community Economic Development and Forest Conservation.
- Buy BC Wild Conference: BC Industry Conference for Buyers and Sellers of non-timber forest products
- International Trade Show and Public Exhibition of non timber forest products,

Making the Best Use of Ecosystem Mapping

Prince George BC

November 7-9, 2005

In the past ten years, millions of dollars have been spent throughout British Columbia on various forms of ecosystem mapping. It is estimated that over 60% of BC now has some form of large scale ecosystem mapping complete. This conference will be the first major

forum to bring practitioners together to learn about the many existing and potential uses of ecosystem mapping. Details are at: http://www.forrex.org/home/Ecosystem_Mapping_Workshop_1st_Notice.pdf

7. Kootenay Community Bat Project - Got Bats?

The Kootenay Community Bat Project, which began as the Slocan Valley Bat Project last year, is continuing as a community-based approach to bat inventory and conservation. Funded by the Columbia Basin Trust, the goals of the project are to: 1) identify local bat species, 2) promote the conservation and enhancement of roost sites, and 3) work with landowners to develop roost conservation strategies. Last year the project identified roost sites for the blue-listed Townsend's big-eared bat, including the largest maternity colony known in the West Kootenay. For more information or to report bat roost sites: Phone (250) 352-2260, Email kootenaybats@uniserve.com, or see www.kootenaybats.com

CMI members' update for July 18, 2005

1. CMI News

Thanks to the Columbia Basin Trust and the Columbia Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Program, the Bear Smart Communities workshop will include a one-day session on how to keep a Bear Smart type of group sustainable...including how to assemble and work with an appropriate group of people, fundraising, etc.

2. Climate Change and Forests Research

The Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Research Network (Natural Resources Canada) maintains a list serv for announcements about research into forests and climate; includes calls for proposals, reports, etc. You can send your information out to the list serv, too. If you are actively involved in research, you can become a member of their researcher directory. You can find information about the list serv at:

http://www.forest.c-ciarn.ca/join/main_e.html

3. Workshops and Courses

Climate and Fisheries: Impacts, Uncertainty and Responses of Ecosystems and Communities
October 26-28, 2005,
Victoria Conference Centre, Victoria, BC

Hosted by the Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Research Network, this event will bring together researchers, resource managers, policy makers, planners and community leaders to explore emerging issues about the impacts of climate on marine and freshwater ecosystems, aquatic and fisheries resources, and communities in British Columbia, Washington and the Pacific Northwest. For more information visit:

<http://www.fishclimate.ca/> or contact Mark Johannes at mark@fishclimate.ca.

4. PowerPoint Tip

Making your Visuals Large Enough

Everyone likes to see photographs in your PowerPoint presentations. The key word here is "SEE". When you show a photograph that is important to your talk, please make it full-screen so the people at the back can see it. Avoid artsy effects, for example, three photos popping up onto one screen. The photos just won't be large enough for people at the back to see the details and that's frustrating for them.

Similarly, make your graphs and tables visible. Don't expect us to squint to read the axes, legend, and numbers at the same time as you are verbally presenting results; it's too much to process all at once. Consider making a simplified graph for your PowerPoint and provide a source for people who want the full details.

How can you tell if your visuals are going to work for you in a big conference? Put your graph or photo up on your computer monitor (in slide show mode). Then walk at least five steps away from the screen. This is a pretty fair simulation of what it's like for someone sitting at the back of the room at a 150 person conference.

Hello CMI Members,

CMI Members' update for August 22, 2005

1. CMI News

Identifying Critical Habitat: Methods, Issues, and Solutions

October 18-20, 2005

Prestige Inn, Cranbrook BC

This is two days of presentations on critical habitat issues, with lots of case studies so you can see how people are approaching critical habitat identification. The third day is a field trip, led by Ian Adams, heading north from Cranbrook to look at restoration projects. Or, you can take part in the ABC's of Planning a Communications Strategy seminar. Register separately for the field trip and the seminar; spaces are limited to thirty people for each event.

ABC's of Planning a Communications Strategy that Works!

October 20, 2005

Prestige Inn, Cranbrook

Karyn Sutherland from FORREX is hosting this one day seminar. Designing a communications strategy that successfully contributes to changes in biological condition can be a challenge. Learn simple steps that can be applied to an existing communications plan or the design of a new plan. This workshop is for biologists and others that work on conservation-oriented communications plans.

Creating Bear Smart Communities

November 2-3 2005

Revelstoke Community Centre, Revelstoke BC

Communities adopting Bear Smart programs reduce the number of bear-human conflicts, thereby making their towns safer and reducing the number of bear deaths. Learn what's involved in creating a Bear Smart community. The first day of this workshop includes presentations and a session to encourage networking and viewing of resources to support the programs. Thanks to the support of the Columbia Basin Trust, the second day of the workshop is a session on how Bear Smart community groups can become sustainable. (There will be a limited number of seats available for other conservation-oriented non-profits who'd like to take part in the sustainability session. Please call the CMI office.)

Statistics for Biologists - A Refresher Course

November 15-17, 2005

Coast Hillcrest Hotel, Revelstoke BC

Dr. Carl Schwarz from SFU will review some of the basic sampling and experiment designs used by ecologists and to understand exactly what can and cannot be extracted from a set of data. With the advent of modern statistical packages, the analysis of data is fairly easy, but it is far too easy to get nonsense results. This course will also review common pitfalls in the analysis of data.

Applying DNA Methods to the Study of Wildlife Distribution and Abundance

April 4-7, 2006

Prestige Inn, Nelson BC

DNA collection and analysis has become part of many wildlife studies. In this course, our team of instructors will present an introduction to the use of DNA to identify species, sex, individuals, and populations; discuss study design and field methods; and illustrate how DNA data can be used in animal inventory, census, and monitoring projects using presence/absence, and open and closed model mark/recapture analysis to estimate abundance and track population change with time.

Multidisciplinary Approaches to Recovering Caribou in Mountain Ecosystems

May 30 - June 1, 2006

Revelstoke Community Centre, Revelstoke BC

Recovery plans for caribou are underway across southern BC and Alberta. This conference will examine causes of decline, look at approaches being taken to recover caribou, and examine the socio/economic and social marketing implications of recovery plans

CMI is assisting Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre with this event:

GPS Radiotelemetry: Updating the State of the Technology in Wildlife Research.

May 10-11, 2005

Selkirk College, Castlegar BC

This event will be an international gathering of researchers and practitioners involved in GPS-Radiotelemetry. Presentations will focus on updating the state of the technology in its application and challenges for the future. Case studies, methodological challenges, and current applications will be presented. This event is currently in the planning stages. As organizational details are available, they will be posted to the Selkirk College website. Please visit the website (<http://www.selkirk.bc.ca/events>) to obtain the latest updates. People interested in providing a talk can send inquiries and abstracts to Robert D'Eon at: rdeon@interchange.ubc.ca.

2. Community Mapping Network

www.shim.bc.ca

The Community Mapping Network web site was created to share a wealth of natural resource information and maps with communities in British Columbia, Canada. The CMN integrates data from many sources and makes it accessible through a user friendly mapping system. It integrates and links community and government natural resource information using an online interactive mapping system called Autodesk Mapguide. GIS maps & data are “web-served” through the BC Conservation Foundation office in Surrey, BC. Natural resource information is integrated to assist communities and local governments with landuse planning, to promote conservation and protection of sensitive habitats and to raise awareness and respect for ecological values. Many types of information are included such as fish and wildlife distribution, mapped and unmapped streams and wetlands, eagles and herons, rare and endangered species, biodiversity and possible restoration sites.

3. East Slopes Grizzly Bear Project Final Report

The Eastern Slopes Grizzly Bear Project (ESGBP) was initiated in 1994 to address the urgent need for scientific information about the cumulative effect of human development and activities on grizzly bears in this area (East slopes of the Rockies). The ESGBP actively promotes the application of this information in management and conservation contexts. The Final Report for this project is now available on their web site at <http://www.canadianrockies.net/Grizzly> .

4. DNA Testing Shows “Sasquatch” was a Wood Bison

Do you remember earlier this summer when some hair samples from an alleged Sasquatch were collected in Yukon and sent to David Coltman, wildlife geneticist at the University of Alberta? The results showed it was a Wood Bison. Visit this web site to read all about it: <http://www.lorencoleman.com/coltman.html>

5. Workshops and Courses

Forests and Natural Resources in the 22nd Century
FORREX Annual General Meeting & Science Forum
August 31 – September 1, 2005
Thompson Rivers University Grand Hall
Kamloops, BC

The purpose of this forum is to explore the following questions:

- What will our forested ecosystems look like in the year 2100?
- Will society flourish from a sustained supply of goods and services from our forested environment?
- How is science and technology being applied to ensure a continued supply of water and other natural resource products and services?

For more information and to register: www.forrex.org/AGMScienceForum .

Climate and Fisheries: Impacts, Uncertainty, and Responses of Ecosystems and Communities
October 26-28, 2005
Victoria Conference Centre, Victoria, BC

This three day event will bring together researchers, resource managers, policy makers, planners and community leaders to explore emerging issues about the impacts of climate and climate change on marine and freshwater ecosystems, aquatic and fisheries resources, and communities in British Columbia, Washington and the Pacific Northwest. See www.fishclimate.ca for details

Seeing the Forest Beneath the Trees: An Exploration of the Non-Timber Forest Products Industry
September 16 -17 at the College Rockies, Cranbrook Campus
October 14 & 15 in Nelson, Location to be determined

At this workshop you will learn about the diverse Non Timber Forest Product Sector that includes: floral greens, ecotourism, wild mushrooms, marketing and economics, horticulture, opportunities with small diameter wood, medicinal plants, NTFP inventory, and more. For more information and to register visit <http://www.kfis.ca/> or call Michael Keefer at 250-489-0917 mkeefe@kfis.ca

CMI Members' update for September 12, 2005

1. "The Inner Green" Now Available

CMI Member Eileen Delehanty Pearkes announces the publication of *The Inner Green* (Maa Press, \$23), a natural and personal history of the Columbia Mountains co-authored with K.Linda Kivi. A local project from the ground up, the book takes a closer look at the historic anadromous salmon runs, the role of cougars, the geological formation of the Badshot range, snow ecology and more. Wildlife Biologist Joan Snyder says: "If you want to explore one of the loveliest places on Earth, while gaining insights into its special beauty, its ecology and the people who inhabit it, this is a book you should read."

2. Identifying Critical Habitat: Methods, Issues, and Solutions

Prestige Inn, Cranbrook BC
October 18-20, 2005

October 18-19, 2005: Presentations

October 20, 2005: Field trip or ABC's of Communications planning (30 people each, separate registrations required.)

Register on-line at www.cmiae.org.

The order of speakers in this list is subject to revision. An agenda will be prepared in early October.

1. Overview Talk on Critical Habitat and Conservation Biology, Peter Arcese, UBC Centre for Applied Conservation Research.
2. Critical Habitat under the Species at Risk Act: A Federal Perspective, Kent Prior, Parks Canada.
3. British Columbia Perspectives on Critical Habitat, Speaker to be announced.
4. First Nations Perspectives on Critical Habitat, Speaker to be announced.
5. Resolving Critical Habitat Designation Failures under ESA: Reconciling Law, Policy, and Biology, Karen Hodges, UBC Okanagan.
6. Spotted Owl Case Study, Louise Waterhouse, BC Ministry of Forests and Range, and Glenn Sutherland, Cortex Consultants.
7. Using a Functional Approach to Define Critical Habitat for Mountain Caribou in Southeastern British Columbia, Dennis Hamilton, Nanuq Consulting, and Steven Wilson, Ecologic Consulting.
8. Critical Habitat for Plants: Contrasting the Examples of Lyall's Mariposa Lily in Okanagan Grasslands and Vernal Pool Habitats within Garry Oak Ecosystems, Mike Miller, Consultant.
9. Letting Snails Show Us the Way: Delineating Critical Habitat for the Endangered Banff Springs Snail, Dwayne Lepitzki.
10. Unencumbered by Data: Combining Stewardship and Science to Address Information Gaps, Kari Nelson, BC Ministry of Environment, and Ian Adams, Corvus Communications.
11. The Challenges of Identifying Critical Habitat for a Large River Fish Species, the White Sturgeon, Dan Sneep, Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
12. Modelling Habitat Use by Wood Bison at Multiple Spatial Scales: Tools and Techniques to Define Critical Habitat, Olaf

Jensen, Canadian Wildlife Service.

13. A Habitat Model for the Coastal Giant Salamander in British Columbia, Jeff Lemieux, Department of National Defence.

14. Delineating Critical Habitat for the Western Yellow-Breasted Chat and the Whooping Crane under the New Species at Risk Act in Canada, Kathryn Lindsay, Environment Canada.

15. Critical Habitats in a Settled Landscape: A Case Study of Two Freshwater Fishes in the Lower Fraser Valley, Mike Pearson, Pearson Ecological.

16. Comments on the Conference and the State of the Identify Critical Habitat, Peter Arcese, UBC Centre for Applied Conservation Research.

17. Panel Discussion. Questions from the audience addressed to speakers.

CMI Members' update for October 7, 2005

1. CMI News

Things are very busy as the conference organizing committee and I set up the last minute details for the Identifying Critical Habitat - Issues, Methods, and Solutions workshop to be held in Cranbrook on October 18-19. We have over 100 people coming and more registrations each day. If you plan to attend please note that we are cutting off registrations at 150. We still have 10 spots for the field trip and 15 spots on the ABC's of Planning a Communications Strategy that Works session.

Registrations are coming in for the Creating Bear Smart Communities workshop to be held in Revelstoke on November 2-3. If you are a consulting biologist, it may be to your advantage to hear about this program and meet the people working to set up programs in their communities. They may need a biologist to prepare bear hazard assessments and Bear / Human conflict management plans.

The second day of the Creating Bear Smart Communities workshop is about Sustainability for Non-Profits in the Conservation Sector. Through discussion and exercises, this interactive workshop will present the principles of sustainability for non-profits, drawing on examples from the Bear Aware and conservation-oriented groups. You don't have to attend the first day on Bear Smart to attend the second day on sustainability. Cost is only \$50, includes lunch, and thanks to the Columbia Basin Trust we have a (limited) number of registration and travel subsidies.

CMI Members' update for October 12, 2005

The Workshop Summary for the CMI's Implications of Climate Change in British Columbia's Southern Interior Forests workshop is now available at the CMI web site. You can download the 3.8 MB PDF file at:

<http://www.cmiae.org/pdf/ImpofCCinforestsfinal.pdf>

CMI Members' update for October 26, 2005

1. CMI News

The Identifying Critical Habitat Conference happened last week in Cranbrook. We had about 115 people at the conference. Comments after the event were positive. Some people came looking for a recipe book on how to identify critical habitat, but hey, it's just not that simple. Presentations were from people working on a variety of species in a variety of jurisdictions, and showed a variety of approaches. We hope to have a conference summary available early in 2006. As usual, it will be available as a free download from our web site. I will send a note to the CMI members when it is available.

The ABC's of Planning a Communications Strategy That Works session drew 20 people. We learned about the importance of designing measurable goals, and linking goals to specific actions through logic planning. Thanks go to Karyn Sutherland and Susan Leech from FORREX for offering to hold this session immediately following the Identifying Critical Habitat conference.

Our Statistics for Biologists -- A Refresher Course to be held in Revelstoke on November 15-17 still has five spaces left. This course is suitable for all resource managers. Although the examples are biologist-oriented, "statistics is statistics" so the course is relevant.

2. IJC Invites Comments on Salmon Restoration Upstream of Grand Coulee Dam

The International Joint Commission is inviting comments on the request of the Canadian Columbia River Inter-tribal Fisheries Commission (CCRIFC) that the IJC enforce the conditions of their 1941 Order of Approval of the Grand Coulee Dam. Columbia Basin First Nations (and many other people) were affected by the blockage of salmon passage at Grand Coulee Dam when it was completed in 1942. Salmon were eliminated from the 800 kilometres of river (and thousands of kilometres of tributaries) between the dam and the headwaters of the river at Columbia Lake. CCRIFC and Columbia Basin First Nations are working on a number of related, long-term strategies towards the restoration of upper Columbia salmon populations. The intent of CCRIFC's application to the IJC is to initiate a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility and benefits of restoring anadromous salmon populations upstream of Grand Coulee dam. Interested individuals or organizations may wish to submit comments on the salmon restoration initiative (or on the specific technical question of the IJC's continuing jurisdiction) to the IJC. Details of the IJC's invitation can be found at http://www.ijc.org/rel/boards/ccrffc/ccrffc-views_28062005_e.htm. The deadline for comments is October 31, 2005.

Please provide copies of your comments to:
CCRIFC
7468 Mission Rd.,
Cranbrook, B.C.
V1C 7E5
ccrffc@cyberlink.bc.ca

3. Proceedings from the Species At Risk 2004: Pathways to Recovery Conference now available

These proceedings are now posted at the conference web site:
<http://www.speciesatrisk2004.ca/html/searchform.html>

The proceedings consist of papers and extended abstracts which cover a diverse range of topics including species and habitat ecology, climate change, multi-scale approaches to recovery, setting recovery priorities, recovery planning and implementation, monitoring, stewardship and education.

4. Mountain Caribou Consultation Document

The Species at Risk Coordination Office has just released the Mountain Caribou Consultation Document. Informed by the work of the Recovery Implementation Groups, SaRCO is developing options for recovery of mountain caribou to deliver to government for decision making during 2005. The document presents draft options for the recovery and management of mountain caribou populations. You can download the document at: <http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/ilmb/index.html> and look in the lower left corner for the link.

CMI Members' update for December 7, 2005

1. CMI News

Our fall events included the Identifying Critical Habitat conference, the Creating Bear Smart Communities workshop, and another Statistics for Biologists refresher course. I am now assembling write-ups from the presenters for the workshop summaries.

Our spring events will include the Applying DNA Methods course, the Multidisciplinary Approaches to Recovering Caribou in Mountain Ecosystems workshop, and a CMI Annual Researchers' Meeting. Details will be on the web site as they develop.

GPS Radiotelemetry: Updating the State of the Technology in Wildlife Research - CMI is co-hosting this event with Rob D'Eon and Donna Delparte from the Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre (Selkirk College in Castlegar) with this May 10-11, 2006 conference. Details are posted on the Selkirk College web site at: http://selkirk.ca/events/event_detail.asp?event=103 and will be updated in the next week or so. CMI members will receive a discount so

be sure to identify yourself as a member when you register.

The conference will be preceded with at least two one-day workshops at the Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre, one of which will be an Introduction to using Geographic Information Systems. More information on the Centre's courses will be available in January.

2. BC Launches New Web Tool for Invasive Alien Plants

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/invasive/IAP_01.htm

The Invasive Alien Plant Program Application is the database for invasive plant data in BC. It is intended to co-ordinate/share information generated by various agencies and non-government organizations involved in invasive plant management. The application has been developed to allow the entry, edit and query of invasive plant information including: site details; invasive plant inventory information; planning; treatment methods and data; and, monitoring data.

3. New Pacific Northwest Climate Projections

Those of you who attended CMI's 2003 climate change workshop in Cranbrook heard presentations from the Climate Impacts Group at the University of Washington. Understandably these folks pay a lot of attention to what's happening in the Canadian portion of the Columbia Basin. They have recently prepared new climate projections for the US Pacific Northwest, which includes our area. If you are a resource manager these readable, well-illustrated reports will be of high interest to you. Includes projections for snowpack, precipitation, temperature, and more. Go to:

<http://www.cses.washington.edu/cig/outreach/newsletter.shtml>

and look in the fourth item in the list of newsletter contents.

4. New Publications

Assessing success at achieving biodiversity objectives in managed forests

October 2005 FORREX Extension Note

by Isabelle Houde, Fred Bunnell, and Susan Leech.

To reduce the uncertainty facing forest managers aiming to maintain biodiversity across their land base, scientists and policy-makers support adaptive management, a process that relies heavily on effectiveness monitoring. Forest managers need to know what to measure and how to monitor it to gauge progress towards desired outcomes. Houde, Bunnell, and Leech describe the four steps in the adaptive management process, explain how effectiveness monitoring fits into the process, and provide case study that describes how this process is currently being used in BC. Download the PDF at: http://www.forrex.org/jem/2005/vol6/no2/vol6_no2_art2.pdf

Assessing the need for species conservation action in British Columbia-

October 2005, FORREX Extension Note

by Fred Bunnell, R. Wayne Campbell, and Kelly Squires.

In BC, species richness and complex biogeography could contribute to failure of species conservation efforts. To avoid the pitfalls of giving locally rare species artificially high ratings for risk, Bunnell, Campbell, and Squires propose criteria for selecting species for conservation action that evade some of the past failings and more directly address global stewardship responsibilities. Download the PDF at: http://www.forrex.org/jem/2005/vol6/no2/vol6_no2_art3.pdf

5. Non-Lethal Cougar Deterrent?

I received an email request for some information on how to deter cougars. The fellow has 55 acres about 20 km south of Merritt, and he wants to keep cougars out. He is looking for a perimeter deterrent that will stop or discourage cougars from entering the property. If you have suggestions on how this might be done, please contact Herman Bakker at [hbkakker@yahoo.ca](mailto:hbakker@yahoo.ca)

6. Neonate bear skeleton?

A student at Simon Fraser University is researching developmental stress in cave bears, using modern species as models. She is having trouble finding a neonate skeletal specimen. If you can help her please contact Sarah Swayze at saswayze@sfu.ca

CMI Members' update for January 4, 2006

1. CMI News

CMI's upcoming events are:

Applying DNA Methods to Wildlife Studies course – April 4-7 in Nelson

CMI Annual Researchers' Meeting, last week of April in Nelson - Start thinking about attending!

Multidisciplinary Approaches to Recovering Mountain Caribou in Mountain Ecosystems – May 29-30 2006 in Revelstoke

Bear Conservation in a Fast-Changing North America – October 24-27 in Revelstoke

CMI is assisting Selkirk College with this event:

GPS Radiotelemetry - May 10 -11, 2006, at Selkirk College in Castlegar.

Details and registration are now available at http://selkirk.ca/events/event_detail.asp?event=103

2. University of Calgary's Faculty of Environmental Design – Projects Needed

EVDS 702 is “Advanced Environmental Design Practice “. Groups of students tackle projects in the following areas:

- human interventions in the landscape
- sustainable design
- urban design
- environmental management

If you have a project suitable for a group of university students, please look at the course description on Page 26 of the University of Calgary course calendar at:

http://www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/faculties/EV/calendar/course_outline_book/course_outline.pdf

and then contact:

Lorraine Fowlow, Course Manager, EVDS 702

Associate Dean (Academic), Associate Professor of Architecture, Faculty of Environmental Design

University of Calgary

Tel: 403-220-7442

Email: lfowlow@ucalgary.ca

3. Federal Youth Employment / Wage Subsidy Programs

Are you planning your summer field season and finding you are short of help and money? Consider hiring a “youth” (age 15-30, includes graduate students) and receiving a subsidy for their wages. Find out more at the federal Youth Employment Strategy Program web site at:

<http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/epb/yi/yep/newprog/yesprograms.shtml>

Most colleges and universities are looking for placements for co-op students (undergraduates). Contact your local institution for more information.

4. Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee

The Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee is a group of concerned local citizens, land managers, and government and non-government agencies who share a common concern about the increase of non-native invasive plants in the Central Kootenays and BC.

Their aim is to:

- raise awareness and educate the public about invasive plants and their impacts
- prevent the further introduction and spread of these species
- promote coordinated and collaborative management between agencies and land occupiers
- work towards the control of highly invasive non-native species
- provide a conduit for information and a source of expertise
- develop and maintain an inventory of invasive plants in the region.

The CKIPC now hosts a web site at www.kootenayweeds.com. The site offers resources on weed identification and control, links, and lots of other useful information.

5. Workshops and Courses

Ecosystem Restoration in Mountain Pine Beetle and Wildfire Impacted Areas: Tools and Techniques

Location and Tentative Dates: Kamloops, February 28th, 2006 and Prince George, March 2nd, 2006

These practical 1-day workshops, funded through the BC Provincial Government's Forests for Tomorrow program, are targeted towards forestry planners and practitioners involved in, or interested in becoming involved in, the implementation of ecosystem restoration efforts in BC's mountain pine beetle- and wildfire-affected areas. The information presented is designed to increase the knowledge level of workshop participants in the development and evaluation of restoration techniques for mitigating the effects of these large-scale natural disturbance events. For more information on these workshops, contact Jennifer Turner at Jennifer.Turner@forrex.org or 604-463-0328. More detailed information on this workshop will be posted to the FORREX Web site soon (www.forrex.org).

CMI Members' update for February 6, 2006

1. CMI News

CMI Web Site gets an overhaul

We re-designed the front page so it's easier to find things at our web site. Check it out at www.cmiae.org. In the next couple of weeks I plan to update some of the site's content, especially the Links section. If you have suggestions for useful web sites please send them in. I will be updating the Mountain Caribou Compendium, too.

The information on the Multidisciplinary Approaches to Recovering Caribou In Mountain Ecosystems conference will be out this week. It's already on www.cmiae.org. We heartily encourage researchers and resource managers to bring posters on their work, and we are offering a registration fee discount for doing so.

We are running the Applying DNA Methods to the Study of Wildlife Distribution and Abundance course in Nelson on April 4-7. Registrations are low and the course is in danger of being cancelled. If you or someone you know is interested in attending, please register on-line at www.cmiae.org by February 15.

Member News

Congratulations to Garth Mowat, who is now Senior Wildlife Biologist for MOE Kootenay Region! And we wish all the best to Guy Woods on his retirement. According to the wise words of Bernard Baruch, "Age is only a number, a cipher for the records. A man can't retire his experience." So, Guy, we hope to keep seeing you around, sharing your many years of experience.

2. FORREX's Streamline Publication

The Fall issue of Streamline Watershed Management Bulletin Vol. 9 No. 1 is now available at www.forrex.org/Streamline. It includes papers on:

- 1) Snow Accumulation in BC's Southern Interior Forests. by R. Winkler and J. Roach
- 2) Introduction to Salt Dilution Gauging for Streamflow Measurement Part IV: The Mass Balance (or Dry Injection) Method. by R. Hudson and J. Fraser
- 3) Fertilization in Forested Watersheds. by R. Pike and C. Perrin
- 4) Turbidity and Suspended Sediment as Measures of Water Quality. by P. Marquis

3. Workshops and Conferences

Organization of Wildlife Planners 2006 Annual Conference & Meeting
Planning for Wildlife Conservation in Cultural Landscapes
May 14-17, 2006

Canmore Alberta

Sustaining cultural traditions, lifestyles and economies as well as healthy fish and wildlife populations requires that the conservation community venture into adaptive management practices based on collaborative planning. Wildlife managers, scientists and educators can stimulate such outcomes by engaging citizens in assessing values, needs and expectations for fish and wildlife, then applying what is learned in integrative and cooperative planning. Details are at:

<http://www.owpweb.org/AnnualConf/2006conference.php>

Botany B.C. 2006 Annual Get-Together
May 18-21
Quaaout Resort and Conference Centre, Chase B.C.

This is a "purposefully informal" group of botanists that meet annually in different parts of the province. The meetings include a few talks and lots of botanical outings. Details coming soon at: <http://members.shaw.ca/dmeidinger/botanybc/>

CMI Members' update for March 3, 2006

1.CMI News

Check our web site for details on these events.

We hope you can join us at the CMI Annual Researchers' Meeting in Nelson on April 27-28 to hear presentations on research results, what's new in our area, and who's doing what. Please tell your colleagues they are welcome to attend – you don't have to be a member to give a presentation or attend. If you want to present something, send an abstract to me before March 31. We expect more presentations than we will have room for, so Rachel Holt and Patrick Daigle have volunteered to be our selection committee. Rachel will be Master of Ceremonies for the meeting. First person to register was Doug Adama!

Registrations are now coming in for our Multidisciplinary Approaches to Recovering Caribou in Mountain Ecosystems conference, in Revelstoke on May 29-31 with a field trip on June 1. The speaker list is almost finalized and will be out in the next week or so.

Alas, we had to cancel the Applying DNA Methods course due to low registrations.

I am working on setting up a Trends Analysis course with SFU's Carl Schwarz. Carl teaches the ever-popular Statistics Refresher course for us and we expect the Trends Analysis course to be well received. Carl is an excellent teacher!

Selkirk College is taking registrations for the GPS Radiotelemetry in Wildlife Research conference on May 9-10, see: http://selkirk.ca/events/event_detail.asp?event=103

The workshop summary for the Creating Bear Aware Communities event we hosted in November is now available as a free download on our web site. Go to the Past Events section and follow the links. The conference summary for the Identifying Critical Habitat event is undergoing a copy-edit and will be available on-line before the end of the month.

2. Nature Festivals

Wings over the Rockies
May 1-7 in Invermere B.C.

This year's event will feature naturalist Brian Keating, one of Canada's most eloquent spokesmen for the world's wildlife and wilderness and Reader's Digest Environmental Hero of 2005. Watch for details as they are posted at: www.wingsovertherockies.org

Chickadee Nature Festival

Revelstoke's second nature festival will be held just before our caribou conference; includes Dick Cannings as a speaker. Details will be available in mid-April.

3. Publications

Future Forest Ecosystems of BC: Exploring the Opportunities
Conference Speakers' Power Points now available

The Ministry of Forests and Range held this symposium December 6-7, 2005 in Prince George to examine forest management challenges such as climate change, insect infestations, wildfire event, and timber species selection. The symposium featured leading experts presenting overviews and the latest projections for ecological change agents that may significantly impact B.C.'s forests. The agenda also included working group sessions to provide recommendations for adapting the current forest management paradigm to meet the future challenges. For more information about the event and to view the Power Point presentations from this event visit:
http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/Future_Forests/

Linking Ecology and Economics for Ecosystem Management

Authors: Farber, Stephen; Costanza, Robert; Childers, Daniel L.; Erickson, Jon; Gross, Katherine; Grove, Morgan; Hopkinson, Charles S.; Kahn, James; Pincetl, Stephanie; Troy, Austin; Warren, Paige; Wilson, Matthew

Source: [BioScience](#), Volume 56, Number 2, February 2006, pp. 121-133(13)

This article outlines an approach, based on ecosystem services, for assessing the trade-offs inherent in managing humans embedded in ecological systems. Read the abstract at:

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/aibs/bio/2006/00000056/00000002/art00010#avail>

Ecological Interactions Among Caribou, Moose, and Wolves: Literature Review.

National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, Inc. (NCASI). 2004 Technical Bulletin No. 0893. Research Triangle Park, NC.

This technical bulletin presents a review of scientific literature pertaining to the hypothesis that increases in moose and wolf populations after timber harvesting have adverse effects on caribou. Specifically, large-scale habitat changes that have allowed moose populations to increase and thereby sustain higher wolf numbers presumably have resulted in excessive predation on caribou, apparently resulting in caribou population declines.

Read the abstract and download the article at: <http://www.ncasi.org/Publications/Detail.aspx?id=2697>

Behavioural Response of Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) to Snowmobile Disturbance in an Alpine Environment

Todd Powell, Thomas S. Jung, and Marco Festa-Bianchet. September 2004

Faculty of Sciences, Universite de Sherbrooke

Todd's thesis was done in the Ibx Mountains in Yukon. I have Todd's permission to distribute his thesis so if you would like an electronic copy, just ask. Eventually I will get this posted on our Mountain Caribou Compendium.

Resolving Critical Habitat Designation Failures: Reconciling Law, Policy, and Biology

Karen E. Hodges, Bert Brink CRC Chair in Conservation Biology, UBC Okanagan karen.hodges@ubc.ca

Amy N. Hagen, University of Montana

Karen's talk generated lots of discussion at our Critical Habitat workshop. It is now available at "Online Early" in the Conservation Biology journal. Read the abstract at: <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/toc/cbi/0/0;jsessionid=e9U30DGocGFbTxJ6aN>

4. Power Point Tip: Using Google Earth and Google Map

Many people want to include a map or geographic reference in their Power Point presentations. As an alternative to scanning a paper map, try including a graphic from Google Maps or Google Earth to give your audience a "sense of place" for your presentation.

Google Maps:

Go to www.google.com. Just above the box where you type your key word are some links; choose "More". Then from the list of options, choose Google Maps. Grab the map and drag it so your chosen location is in the centre of the picture. Then start zooming in. When you are fairly close to your location, switch the view from "map" to "satellite" to see a satellite photo of the same location. (The words "map" and "satellite" are on the top of the map.) Notice how the scale changes as you zoom in and out (scale is located at the bottom of the map).

Now, copy the map/satellite photo into your Power Point show. Use the "print screen" button at the top of your keyboard to take a snapshot of what's on your monitor. Open a blank slide in your PowerPoint show, and click on "Paste". A picture of the Google screen

and map will be pasted onto the slide. Use PowerPoint's picture editing tools to crop out everything but the map. Then, drag the corners of the map so it fills the screen. Take a look at your slide in Slide Show mode. If it looks okay on your screen, it will look okay when it is projected. To be sure it will serve your purposes, take a few steps back from your monitor, and look again. This mimics the view for the people at the back of the room in a conference situation.

Using Google Earth:

Be warned, this program is so much fun you can spend hours fooling around with it instead of working! To run Google Earth, you have to download a free program from Google (very easy to do, takes just minutes). Go to www.Google.com and click on the "More" button just above the box where you would normally type your keyword. Then scroll down the page to the Tools section and click on Google Earth. Follow their directions to download it.

The satellite photos used in Google Earth are the same those used in Google Map. However, in Google Earth, you have the ability to rotate your view, and you can tilt the satellite photo to make the mountains look 3D. You can even increase the vertical exaggeration of the mountains. To save the picture for use in PowerPoint: click on File, Save Image, and save it as a JPEG. Then insert it into your PowerPoint show as you would any other picture. Marvellous!

You can buy full-feature Google Earth programs, which will allow you to overlay GPS locations, and more. When you look at a big city (try Vancouver) the resolution of the satellite photo is much better. You can even see cars parked on the street.

CMI Members' update for March 20, 2006

1. CMI News

Identifying Critical Habitats – Summary from our conference is now available.

You can download this summary from our web site. Look in the Past Events section, choose the Identifying Critical Habitats conference, and follow the link to the download (888 kb PDF file).

Mountain Caribou Compendium is updated

I just added ten articles to our Mountain Caribou Compendium and all articles have links to the digital versions. You can download the abstracts as a Word document or browse on screen at: www.cmiae.org/mtn-caribou-compedium.htm. The new articles (and links to the digital versions) are listed at the end of this update, below my signature block. The CMI gratefully acknowledges the support of the Columbia Basin Trust through the Columbia Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership, for funding to update the Compendium over the last two years.

2. Winter of 2005-2006 has been Canada's warmest on record

Read the Associated Press article about this at:

<http://www.enn.com/today.html?id=10057>

(Maybe that's why I had a Western Meadowlark living in my front yard in Revelstoke, from Christmas until last week!)

3. About the Mountain Caribou Compendium

This non-circulating collection of print articles about mountain caribou, their habitats, and related management issues is housed at the CMI office in Revelstoke. You can access an index to the collection, which includes citations, abstracts, and hyperlinks to the actual articles, where available, on the CMI web site. Go to www.cmiae.org and look for the link in the "Resources on this site" section. You then have a choice of viewing the listings on your screen, or downloading the listings as Word documents. If you download the Word documents, you can use your Word program's "Find" function to search for keywords, (e.g. lichen or wolf) or an author's name.

The following ten articles were added in March of 2006. There are about 180 articles in the Compendium.

- 2005 Population Census of Mountain Caribou in the Central Selkirk Mountains of Southeastern British Columbia, Dennis Hamilton, Steve Wilson. April 18, 2005 www.cmiae.org/compendium/reference169.pdf
- Relating predation mortality to broad-scale habitat selection, Philip McLoughlin, Jesse Dunsford, and Stan Boutin. 2005 www.cmiae.org/compendium/reference171.pdf
- B.C.'s Mountain Caribou: Last Chance for Conservation? (Special Report), Forest Practices Board. September 29, 2004 <http://www.fpb.gov.bc.ca/news/releases/2004/29-09.htm>
- Caribou of the Central Selkirks: Questioning historic records for clues to recovery, Brenda Herbison. June 15, 2005

- www.cmiae.org/compendium/reference172.pdf
- Staring at Extinction: Mountain Caribou in British Columbia, An analysis of planned logging in B.C.'s Inland Temperate Rainforest, Devon Page, Joe Scott, Candace Batycki. May 2005
<http://www.mountaincaribou.org/report.html>
- Population dynamics of the endangered mountain ecotype of woodland caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) in British Columbia, Canada, Heiko Wittmer, Bruce McLellan, Dale Seip, James Young, Trevor Kinley, Glen Watts, Dennis Hamilton. 2005 http://article.pubs.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/ppv/RPViewDoc?_handler=_HandleInitialGet&journal=cjz&volume=83&calyLang=eng&articleFile=z05-034.pdf
- Ecological interactions among caribou, moose, and wolves: Literature review. Thomas Chowns, Cormack Gates. December 2004 <http://www.ncasi.org/Publications/Detail.aspx?id=2697>
- Socio-economic Baseline Analysis for the Kootenay Caribou Recovery Action Plans, Final Report, by Economic Growth Solutions. March 2005 www.cmiae.org/compendium/reference176.pdf
- Behavioural Response of Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) to Snowmobile Disturbance in an Alpine Environment Todd Powell, Thomas Jung, Marco Festa-Bianchet. September 2004
www.cmiae.org/compendium/reference177.pdf
- Mountain Caribou Consultation Document, Species at Risk Coordination Office, Ministry of Environment. October 18, 2005 http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/ilmb/pdfs/mountain_caribou_consultation_document_20051025.pdf

CMI Members' update for April 10, 2006

1. CMI News

CMI Annual Researchers' Meeting and AGM

As of this morning we still have five spots available for speakers. Several people still mean to send in an abstract (this is how you secure your spot) but haven't done so yet – please do so ASAP if you would like to present something. Non-members are welcome to present and to attend!

Here's who is on the speaking list so far:

- Doug Adama: Recovery efforts for the northern leopard frog
- Fred Bunnell: Species accounting system addressing songbirds and lichens (attendance to be confirmed at the last minute)
- Garth Mowat: Current issues in wildlife section of MOE
- Jakob Dulisse: Columbia Basin western skink inventory and assessment
- Jenny Feick: Stewardship outreach initiatives
- Juliet Craig: Overview of Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee
- Juliet Craig: Slocan Valley bat project
- Sal Rasheed:
- Jen Theberge: Mount Revelstoke and Glacier Ecological Integrity Monitoring Program
- Tom Braumandl: Historic influence of the Mountain Pine Beetle on Stand Dynamics in Canada's Rocky Mountain National Parks.

Field trips are to look at restoration work on Cottonwood Creek (right next to the Rod and Gun Club Hall) and Sproule Creek. David Paetkau of Wildlife Genetics International has offered us a tour of his lab, too.

If you would like to attend please register soon - we have to know how much food to order, etc. Use the online form at our web site.

CMI Caribou Conference

- The speaker list is being revised almost daily with better information. The most up-to-date version is on our web site.
- The IMCTC (International Mountain Caribou Technical Committee) will be holding their spring meeting adjunct to our conference.

Car-Pooling to CMI Events

Travel with interesting people! Burn less fossil fuel! If you can offer a ride or need a ride to a CMI event, please use our Car-Pooling Bulletin Board. There is a link to the board at the "Upcoming Events" tab on the CMI web site. If you are travelling in a government car, you might wish to pick up other government people en route to the conference. Call if you want help using the bulletin board.

2. Eagle Nest Cam

It's the hot new thing to do – over 5,000 people are doing it at any given moment - check the Bald Eagle nest cam at Hornby Island. The eagles have been using this nest for 19 years. When they were gone for a month last winter, the nest was outfitted with a camera (includes sound). The nest is in a 150 foot tree on a cliff. You can see the wind ruffle the eagles' feathers! Turn on your speakers to hear the dawn chorus of neighbouring birds, and if you hear the eagles start to call to each other, a change in spousal incubation duties is imminent. The two eggs are due to hatch at the end of April. You can even buy a video of the eggs being laid, complete with the female's grunting sound effects.

Be patient with this web cam system, they have ADSL internet but their servers are overloaded due to the immense and sudden popularity of the nest cam. If the web cam won't load for you, try again later (before dark!).

<http://forum.hancockhouse.com/staticpages/index.php/20060323091954727>

3. "ClimateBC: Your Access to Interpolated Climate Data for B.C."

Dave Spittlehouse, B.C. Ministry of Forests and Range

<http://www.forrex.org/streamline/streamline.asp>

Information on ClimateBC is included in the spring 2006 issue of FORREX's Streamline bulletin, available at the above address. ClimateBC is a computer program that offers high-resolution, spatial climate data for current and future climate change. The program was developed because applying climate data in resource management often requires matching spatial scales of climate and resource databases. You can obtain data using a stand-alone MS Windows application that is available to the public. Users of ClimateBC input the latitude, longitude, and elevation of their point of interest. The program outputs monthly maximum and minimum air temperature, precipitation, seasonal summaries, and derived variables such as degree-days and frost-free period for 1961–1990 climate normals. A primary reason for developing ClimateBC is to help analyze the effect of climate change on resource management and develop adaptive actions. Consequently, the user can obtain the above-mentioned variables from ClimateBC for six climate change scenarios at three periods during the 21st century. (Dave Spittlehouse will be speaking on climate change at CMI's Multidisciplinary Approaches to Recovering Caribou in Mountain Ecosystems conference. Following Dave's talk, Bruce McLellan will speak on what climate change might mean for caribou).

4. Photos of Shrinking Glaciers

Many CMI members will remember Dan Fagre (US Geological Service) from CMI's Climate Change in Forests conference held last spring. Dan's work in Glacier National Park, Montana, includes photo documentation of park glaciers over the years. You can read about this work and see the photos at: <http://nrmsc.usgs.gov/repeatphoto/overview.htm>

A similar project was done in the Canadian Glacier National Park by Dr. Dan McCarthy from Brock University (Dan is a CMI member). Using photographs, Dan documented changes in the Illecillewaet Glacier. You can view the collection and other information about the glacier at :

<http://www.whyte.org/time/index.html>

CMI Members' update for April 24, 2006.

1. CMI News

CMI Annual Researchers' Meeting and AGM (more details and registration on our web site)

Here is the agenda for the CMI Annual Researchers' Meeting and AGM. If the formatting of the agenda is poor on your email system, refer to the information on our website at www.cmiae.org in the Upcoming Events tab. Note that the meeting is two half days. You can still register today and tomorrow on our website, or even show up at the door on Thursday afternoon (but we may not have food for late registrants).

CMI Annual Researchers' Meeting and Annual General Meeting
April 27-28, 2006
Rod and Gun Club Hall, 801 Railway Street, Nelson B.C.

[Agenda](#)

Thursday April 27 (afternoon only)	
1:00 p.m.	Welcoming Remarks, Rachel Holt, CMI Director
1:15 p.m.	Recovery efforts for the northern leopard frog in British Columbia, 2001-2005: Doug Adama, Adama Wildlife
1:35 p.m.	Current issues in the Kootenay Fish and Wildlife Section, Ministry of Environment: Garth Mowat, Ministry of Environment, Nelson
1:55 p.m.	Elk Movement Patterns in the Slocan Valley: Leo DeGroot, Ministry of Environment
2:15 p.m.	Columbia Basin western skink inventory and assessment, 2005 results: Jakob Dulisse
2:35 p.m.	Historic influence of the Mountain Pine Beetle on stand dynamics in Canada's Rocky Mountain national parks: Tom Braumandl, Biome Ecological Consultants
3:00 p.m.	Coffee and baked goodies
3:20 p.m.	Monitoring of grizzly bear population trend and demography using DNA mark-recapture methods in the Owikeno Lake area of British Columbia John Boulanger, Integrated Ecological Research
3:40 p.m.	Profile of non-timber forest products in southeastern British Columbia: Michael Keefer, Kootenays Forest Innovation Society
4:00 p.m.	Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks Ecological Integrity Monitoring Program: Sal Rasheed, Jen Theberge, Parks Canada
4:30 p.m.	Finish for the day.

Friday April 28 (morning only, field trips in afternoon)	
9:00 a.m.	CMI Annual General Meeting
9:30 a.m.	Endangered forest of the west Kootenay: A pilot project in the Incomappleux and Trout Lake areas; Rachel Holt, Veridian Ecological Consulting, and Deb MacKillop
9:50 a.m.	Overview of Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee: Juliet Craig, Coordinator, CKIPC
10:10 a.m.	A Rocky Road: Whitebark Pine Restoration Activities On The Continental Divide: Brendan Wilson, Cordilleran Ecological Research
10:30 a.m.	Coffee and baked goodies
10:50 a.m.	Stewardship Outreach Initiatives: Patrick Daigle, Ministry of Environment, Victoria, on behalf of Jenny Feick.
11:10 a.m.	Kootenay Community Bat Project - A community approach to bat inventory and conservation: Juliet Craig
11:30 a.m.	Multi-scale habitat selection by wolverine in British Columbia: John Krebs, Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program
11:50 a.m.	Update on program activities: Angus Glass, Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program
12:00 p.m.	About the field trips
12:05 p.m.	Lunch, provided
<p>Field trips: We will have a sign-up sheet for field trips at the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cottonwood Creek to look at restoration work. Coordinator is Eileen Pearkes • Sproule Creek to look at restoration work. Coordinator is Steve Arndt, Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program • Tour of laboratory at Wildlife Genetics International with David Paetkau. 	

2. Bursaries for Teachers to further knowledge and skills in environmental education

The Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network (CBEEN) still has several thousand dollars worth of bursaries to give away for environmental educators to attend workshops, conferences, etc. that will further your knowledge or skills in environmental education. You have to be a member of CBEEN but it's easy to join. For more information and an application form, contact: Eli Baker, Executive Director, CBEEN, cbeen0506@telus.net. CMI events may be eligible, if you can demonstrate they will help you with your EE work. For more information on CBEEN, contact www.cbeen.org

3. Workshops and Courses

Ecosystem Monitoring Workshop
Radium Hot Springs
September 21-23 2006

Successful adaptive management starts with good data on ecosystem status and trends. Industry, government, conservancies, First Nations, ENGOs and the public are responding to this growing need for accurate, long-term ecosystem monitoring information. FORREX, Parks Canada, the East Kootenay Conservation Program, the Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN) and the Columbia Valley Botanical Gardens and Centre for Sustainable Living are pleased to announce a collaborative, hands-on workshop on ecosystem monitoring. The workshop is designed for both practitioners and those new to the field. For more information contact Don.Gayton@forrex.org or Larry.Halverson@pc.gc.ca.

Wings Over the Rockies Bird Festival - 10th Anniversary
April 22nd, April 29th, May 1-7 and May 27th, 2006
Invermere BC

Visit their web site at www.WingsOverTheRockies.org for a complete list of activities and registration information. This year's featured speaker is naturalist Brian Keating, one of Canada's most eloquent advocates for the world's wildlife & wilderness, and Reader's Digest's Environmental Hero of 2005.

Electrofishing Course
Selkirk College, Castlegar
May 13 -14, 2006

This 2-day certification course is an introduction to electrofishing theory, safety, and practices. The program meets current Worker's Compensation Board (WCB) requirements for certification. Emphasis is on safety but the theory and practice of backpack electrofishing is also reviewed. Cost: \$400.00. For details and registration go to: <http://www.mala.ca/nrep/courseinfo.asp?ID=963>

CMI Members' update for May 18, 2006

1. CMI News

CMI Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held in Nelson on April 28. At the meeting we welcomed Doug Adama as our newest CMI Director. Doug lives near Golden, and is a long-time member of CMI. He currently chairs the recovery team for the "southern mountain population" of the northern leopard frog. Doug represents the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program on the Rocky Mountain Trench Ecosystem Restoration operational committee.

We send a big "thank you" to our retiring Directors. Evelyn Hamilton has stepped down, but has kindly offered to be a resource person whenever we need her. Dr. John Woods and Guy Woods are both leaving the Board. John and Guy were on the first slate of Directors when CMI was founded in 1996, and John was our first President. Our organization owes much to these two gentlemen for their advice and expertise over many years. Both are still involved with the CMI and our events – Guy is presenting at the caribou conference and John is co-chair for our fall bear conference.

Did you know – Both John and Guy retired this year and both have started up companies of their own. John will pursue his interests in acoustics through his company "Wild Voices"; and you will meet Guy operating through his new company, "Woods Wildland Consulting".

Our Annual Researchers Meeting was attended by about 55 people. The summary of the presentations available on our web site sometime next month.

Our caribou conference scheduled for the end of this month will be attended by over 90 people. Although the conference is about caribou, we feel there is much to be learned by looking at problem-solving for other species at risk, and the economic and social issues related to species at risk. Our line-up of speakers reflects this. More information and the agenda are at our web site.

2. Catalogue of species survey and monitoring programs in Canada

The Nature Conservancy of Canada is conducting a research project for Environment Canada to catalogue species survey and monitoring programs within all of the ecoregions containing agricultural land across Canada. They would like to include information about survey or

monitoring programs that you are working on or that you know of. They are not collecting each program's data, but are cataloguing information about the surveys/programs that support population estimates, population trends over time, habitat use assessment, population viability analysis, and assessment of population trends in relation to habitat quantity and quality. This project will provide information to Environment Canada in support of the development of voluntary biodiversity performance standards for the agricultural sector in Canada. For more information contact: Sairah Tyler, viridiaconsulting@yahoo.com (250) 592-5181, (250) 479-3191 x242 . The deadline for new information is May 31st.

3. Wildlife Crossings

If you will be in Banff townsite this summer, stop in at the Whyte Museum (www.whyte.org) and take a look at Tony Clevenger's exhibit, Wildlife Crossings. Banff National Park is bisected by a transportation corridor that includes the four lane Trans Canada Highway, the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the Banff Parkway. The educational exhibit was developed in partnership with Parks Canada to show the importance of reconnecting habitats, the use of crossing structures by a variety of wildlife in Banff National Park, and the importance of research and monitoring.

4. Westland Television Shows

Schedule for 2006, June 5th to July 10th, Mondays 6:30 pm
Knowledge Network

This year's episodes include shows on Mountain Pine Beetles, restoring forests to grasslands, how wildlife inventories are done, and more. For more information and the schedule, visit: <http://www.westlandtv.com/>

5. Abstracts from 11th North American Caribou Conference

April 24-27, 2006
Jasper AB

The abstracts and speaker list from this conference are available at:
http://www.albertadirectory.net/actws/News/Events/2006/CaribouWorkshop-Program_d5.pdf

CMI Members' update for June 30, 2006

1. CMI News

Welcome to our new members that joined at the caribou conference!

Our Multidisciplinary Approaches to Recovering Caribou in Mountain Ecosystems conference in Revelstoke was attended by about 125 people. As well as talks about the biological science related to our ecotype of woodland caribou, we had talks from the social, political, and economic sciences. We brought in speakers to tell us about recovery approaches for other species and other jurisdictions. The workshop evaluation forms indicated most people had their expectations met and found the multidisciplinary aspects of the event useful. A conference summary is in preparation and will be available as a free download from our web site before the end of the summer. Thanks again to our sponsors for this event, which were:

- B.C. Ministry of Environment
- B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Species at Risk Coordination Office
- B.C. Timber Sales, Ministry of Forests and Range
- Canfor Corporation
- Columbia Basin Trust, through the Columbia Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership
- Forest Practices Board
- Global Precision Inc.
- Mountain Labyrinths Inc.
- Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation
- Veridian Ecological Consulting
- Weyerhaeuser Company Limited

- West Fraser Timber

Information and registration for our Bear Conservation in a Fast Changing North America (October 2006) will be on our web site in the next day or so.

If you were at our October 2005 conference on Identifying Critical Habitat, you might want to read Susan Leech's writeup on the event in FORREX's publication called LINKS: http://www.forrex.org/publications/link/ISS36/vol7_no3_art5.pdf

Lots of other good information in that issue too – on co-existing with large carnivores, a report on Dr. Lana Ciarniello's grizzly bear project in the Hart Ranges/ Parsnip River watershed, and more.

2. UNBC to lead new western Canada glacier research network

This five-year study coordinated by University of Northern British Columbia will help understand how glaciers will react to future climate change. Brian Menounos, a faculty member at UNBC, is leading the Western Canadian Cryospheric Network, a new research network that is receiving \$2.1 million in funding from the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences. Other participating institutions include the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, University of Alberta, University of Calgary, University of Victoria, University of Washington, federal and provincial governments, BC Hydro, and the Columbia Basin Trust. By working together over the next five years, the group aims to understand the links between climate variability and glacier fluctuations in British Columbia and western Alberta. Research will be conducted on glaciers in the Coast, Columbia, Selkirk, Cariboo, and Rocky Mountain ranges to detail how glacier extent has changed over the past 400 years. This information will be used to better understand climate variability and how glaciers will respond to projected climate change over the next 50 to 150 years.

3. Jackie becomes a podcasting maniac

I just purchased an IPOD and might be just a tad overenthusiastic about the world of podcasting, but I have to tell you - Did you know you can download podcasts (very similar to radio programs) for FREE from the journal Nature, feature articles from the Discovery Channel and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and many more science shows? Not to mention interviews based on the cover story for Business Week, and a huge amount of information from CBC including the "Best of Ideas". Road trips and travel outside the range of radio stations just got a lot more interesting! Actually many of the podcasts are available as MP3 files so you can listen to them on your computer, too, i.e. you don't have to have an iPod or MP3 player. To find a directory for podcasts, go to <http://www.podcast.net> and browse through the thousands of sources for podcasts. You can subscribe to podcasts and receive new editions every week.

4. Publications

Pacific Northwest Fungi Journal

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

This is a peer-reviewed online journal for information on fungal natural history in the Pacific Northwest (Alaska, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington) including taxonomy, nomenclature, ecology, and biogeography. The journal is part of the Pacific Northwest Fungi Project, a consortium of professional scientists and amateur natural history enthusiasts cooperating to develop a comprehensive inventory of the region's fungi. Their mission is to facilitate cataloging the fungi of the Pacific Northwest by developing educational programs, an online journal and databases, and coordinated research projects.

Species at Risk Act – Three Years Later

An Interim Report by the Canadian Nature Network

Excerpt from the Executive Summary:

The federal Species at Risk Act was proclaimed in June 2003 to address the mounting threats to Canada's endangered species. As the Act's third anniversary approaches, the Canadian Nature Network reports that SARA is failing to meet its objectives. Key weaknesses in the Act have been exacerbated by shallow federal implementation, reducing the Act's effectiveness.

Read the six page report (1.54 MB) at:

http://www.cnf.ca/pdf/SARA_2006e.pdf

Preparing for Climate Change: Adapting to Impacts of Climate Change on BC's forest and range resources.

In June 2005, Jim Snetsinger (Chief Forester) initiated a task team consisting of staff from the Ministry of Forests and Range and the

Ministry of Environment to review the opportunities and risks that climate change poses to our forest and range resources, and to prepare a report outlining how the MoFR should strategically position itself in response to these changes. This report is now available on-line at: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/Climate_Change/

CCRIFC E-Newsletter

The Canadian Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission has an e-newsletter to update you on their activities. The current issue includes write-ups on the B.C. Hydro Water Use Planning initiative and On-Reserve Fish Habitat Assessments. To be placed on the distribution list, contact Jaime Cristales at Jaime@ccrffc.org .

Criteria and Indicator Initiatives in British Columbia: A Dialogue on Science, Experience, and Innovation, held in February 2006 in Victoria B.C.

The summary now available for this FORREX event. In April 2004, FORREX was asked to co-ordinate an initiative exploring common ground for criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management initiatives in British Columbia. In response, FORREX convened a group of government, industry, academic and First Nations partners to summarize ongoing criteria and indicator initiatives internationally, nationally, and locally, and to create a community of practice related to criteria and indicator development in British Columbia. Work completed in the first year was presented at a forum in February 2005 and for the second year in February 2006. Over 70 participants and speakers from government, industry, First Nations, academia, and non-governmental organizations attended the workshop. Read the 2006 workshop summary at: <http://www.forrex.org/publications/other/filereports/C&IForum2006.pdf>

11th Annual North American Caribou Conference

The abstracts and schedule for this conferences held back in April 2006 in Jasper AB are available at: http://www.albertadirectory.net/actws/News/Events/2006/CaribouWorkshop-Program_d5.pdf
This is a 51 page document, 1.16 MB in size.

5. Web Sites of Interest

Biodiversity of British Columbia web site

<http://www.geog.ubc.ca/~brian/Biodiversity/BiodiversityBC.html>

This web site is an initiative of the UBC Lab for Advanced Spatial Analysis, Department of Geography, at the University of British Columbia. The web site provides an introduction to the biological diversity of British Columbia, insight into what biodiversity is, and access to detailed comprehensive information on the plant and animals species that the ecosystems of BC support. Includes introductions to BC's biodiversity hot spots, discusses conservation issues surrounding these, and provides an introduction to the province's rare and endangered species of flora and fauna.

Electronic Atlases of B.C.'s Flora and Fauna web site

Careful now, you can spend huge amounts of time browsing through these two excellent resources:

E-Flora B.C. at <http://eflora.bc.ca/>

and the new E-Fauna B.C. <http://efauna.bc.ca/>

6. Conferences

North American Weed Management Association's 14th Annual Conference

September 19 – 21, 2006

Coast Plaza Hotel in Calgary.

Hosted by the Alberta Invasive Plants Council, this conference focuses on "Invasive Plants: Risk Assessment & Ecological Integrity" and will feature speakers from across Canada & the US, field tours, and an evening banquet with real western entertainment. For more information please visit: <http://www.invasiveplants.ab.ca/NAWMA2006.htm> .

Integrated Vegetation Management Association of BC Conference

November 15-17, 2006

Richmond, BC

This conference focuses on "Practical Vegetation Management in BC: Regulatory, Technical and Environmental Updates". For more information, visit www.ivma.com.

CMI Members' update for July 24, 2006

1. CMI news

The summary of presentations document for the CMI Annual Researchers' Meeting, held in Nelson on April 27-28, is now available. You will find it on our web site at: http://www.cmiae.org/pdf/Researchers_2006_%20summary.pdf .

2. Y2Y Science grants announced

The Y2Y Science grants for 2006 went to the following projects. More details on the Y2Y grants program and information on projects granted funds in other years, visit <http://www.y2y.net/science/grants/sciencegrants-grant-recipients.asp> .

The Idaho Conservation League, Boise, ID and Dr. Janet Rachlow, University of Idaho to study Fisher ecology in North-Central Idaho; Native Forest Network, Missoula, MT and Anna Sala, University of Montana to determine if past logging activities in forests exacerbate the effect of fire exclusion; Wildlife Conservation Society, Toronto, ON and Dr. John Weaver for their efforts in conserving ecological connectivity for the Nahanni-Liard Caribou Herd; and the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation, Missoula, MT and Carmen Wong, University of British Columbia to research connecting ecological processes to Whitebark Pine Restoration. In addition, one Social Science grant was awarded to the Predator Conservation Alliance, Bozeman, MT and Adrian Treves for their pilot project which will compile public opinion of grizzly bear and wolf management options prior to delisting in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

3. Arrow Innovative Forest Practices Agreement

The latest issue of the Journal of Ecosystem Management (FORREX) includes a series of extension notes on the Arrow Innovative Forest Practices Agreement, and a guest editorial by Daryll Hebert. Here is excerpt from the abstract of the first extension note:

“This extension note is the first in a series of eight that describes a set of tools and processes developed to support sustainable forest management planning and its pilot application in the Arrow Timber Supply Area. Conducted under the Arrow Innovative Forestry Practices Agreement Sustainability Project, and initiated by an interdisciplinary team of academics and practitioners, the “Sustainable Forest Management Framework” offers a comprehensive approach to forest management planning that is also applicable in other parts of British Columbia.” The Arrow IFPA extension notes and special features are available at:

<http://www.forrex.org/publications/jem/jem.asp?issue=34>

4. Want tips on assembling a display or “poster”?

At our May CMI caribou conference, twenty people brought table top displays, free-standing displays, or wall posters, and these added greatly to the amount of information exchanged at the event. I thought that perhaps the CMI members would like a few tips on how to prepare a good display or poster:

a. These websites have EXCELLENT directions:

http://www.asp.org/education/howto_onPosters.html

<http://www.lcsc.edu/ss150/poster.htm> see How to Construct a Poster.

b. Make your wall poster using a complex PowerPoint slide, write the file to a CD, and have it printed by someone with a plotter. Best to convert it to a PDF file first, so you are certain that your slide prints the same for the plotter as it did for you.

c. Simplify your information to some extent, and provide a handout, web site address, or citation for people that want the full details.

d. Displays should be readable at 4-6 feet away, which means you need to use at least 16 point font. Print your table or text and put it at the floor by your feet – can you still read it?

e. Remember to put your name and contact information right on the display. Affix a few business cards so people can help themselves (tape on one of those plastic card holders?).

f. Before the conference, clarify with the conference host whether tables and table cloths supplied, if there is a power outlet nearby, etc., as per the special needs of your display.

5. Conferences and Courses

Ecosystem Monitoring

September 21-23, 2006
Radium Hot Springs

Successful adaptive management starts with good data on ecosystem status and trends. Industry, government, conservancies, First Nations, ENGOs and the public are responding to this growing need for accurate, long-term ecosystem monitoring information. FORREX, Parks Canada, the East Kootenay Conservation Program, the Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN) and the Columbia Valley Botanical Gardens and Centre for Sustainable Living are pleased to announce a collaborative, hands-on workshop on ecosystem monitoring. The workshop is designed for both practitioners and those new to the field.

A detailed agenda will be available shortly. For more information contact: don.Gayton@forrex.org 250-494-1858 or Larry.Halverson@pc.gc.ca 250-347-2207.

The Columbia Basin – A Cultural Environment and an Environmental Culture
October 19-22, 2006
Castlegar BC

This is an international, transboundary conference. Technical sessions on water management, art, heritage, cultural tourism, information sharing related to the basin ecosystem with respect to nature, conservancy, environmental stewardship, volunteer board management, and trans-boundary issues will be presented. The conference program strives to offer a heightened understanding about the values of the basin for arts and cultural participants; and, by including an Environmental Culture partnership this year, representatives will also share information on an array of topics related to the management of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, and continue a dialogue of interests seeking to breaking down barriers to implementing ecosystem-based management in the basin. Details are at: <http://www.basinculture.com/majevents.htm>

CMI Members' update for September 7, 2006

1. CMI News

Registrations are coming in for our fall bear conference, titled "Bear Conservation in a Fast-Changing North America", to be held at the Revelstoke Community Centre on October 24-25, with field trips on October 26. For all the details and to register, please see our web site (www.cmiae.org). Here's the list of speakers:

- Bears in a fast-changing North America - What challenges do bears face? Dr. Bruce McLellan, BC Ministry of Forests and Range.
- Changes in salmon dynamics and the implications for coastal bears, Stefan Himmer, Arctos Wildlife Services
- Changing wildfire and insect disturbance regimes in British Columbia, Speaker TBA
- The future of huckleberries: Implications for bears, Evelyn Hamilton, Research Branch, Ministry of Forests and Range
- Case study: how will polar bears cope with this fast-changing world? Dr. Andy Derocher, University of Alberta.
- Access management in bear habitat: Patterns and projections, Speaker TBA
- Bear viewing at Knight Inlet Lodge, Dean Wyatt, Knight Inlet Lodge
- Changes in human attitudes toward bears, Speaker TBA
- Future of Bear Hunting, Speaker TBA
- "Posters and Beer" Session
- Can polar bears survive the next century in Canada?
- Provisions for grizzly bear management in regional and forest management plans - Are they working to benefit bear populations? Tony Hamilton, BC Ministry of Environment
- Changing silvicultural practices: Identification and buffering of important habitat features, Rob Serrouya
- Population fragmentation: Causes, implications, and solutions, Dr. Michael Proctor
- The modern researchers' hardware toolkit: Radio-telemetry, GPS collars, DNA, and satellite collars, Clayton Apps, Aspen Wildlife Research
- The modern researchers' analysis toolkit: Population estimation, monitoring designs, and analysis strategies, John Boulanger, Integrated Ecological Research
- The US Endangered Species Act and grizzly bears: Is it time to de-list the Yellowstone grizzlies? Dr. Chris Servheen, University of Montana
- Brown bear management in Alaska: Perspectives of four retired Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologists, Sterling Miller, National Wildlife Federation, Montana

- Combining DNA, stable isotopes, and life history traits to identify grizzly bear population unit boundaries for management, Dr. David Paetkau, Wildlife Genetics International
- Models used to extrapolate grizzly bear populations in British Columbia, Garth Mowat, BC Ministry of Environment
- Managing the grizzly bear harvest in British Columbia, Matt Austin, BC Ministry of Environment.

Field Trips:

- Revelstoke's road to becoming a Bear Smart community.
- Managing cut-blocks and roads near avalanche chutes for bears
- Revelstoke's new ski resort
-

2. Forty-Two “New” Species at Risk

Two weeks ago the federal government announce the addition of 32 land-based species and 10 aquatic species to Schedule 1, the list of species protected under the Species at Risk Act. The list of 42 species can be found at:

http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/regs_orders/RIAS_0606_e.cfm

To read the press release and view a list of relevant links, visit:

http://www.ec.gc.ca/press/2006/060824_n_e.htm

3. Web Site and Books of Interest

Celebrating Wildflowers

<http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/>

This web site is supported by several US government agencies as a way to promote and enjoy wildflowers and native plants. Includes information on gardening with native plants, invasive plants, teacher lesson plans, and links to more specialized US government information.

Island Press Publications

New Society Publishers

Twice this month I have browsed the web sites of book publishers, checking up on books that were recommended to me as being of interest to CMI members. For CMI members living in small towns, it's nice to be able to scout around for titles that you won't find in your local book store. Take a look at the offerings of these two publishers – and I am sure there are many more good publishers out there!

Island Press, in Washington DC

www.islandpress.org

New Society Publishers, in Gabriola Island BC

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

And what were the books that were recommended to me?

Corridor Ecology by Jodi A. Hilty, William Z. Lidicker Jr. and Adina M. Merenlender, Island Press, 2006

Fostering Sustainable Development: An Introduction to Community Based Social Marketing, McKenzie-Mohr, Doug, and William Smith. New Society Publishers, 1999: Gabriola Island, B.C.

4. Used government equipment for auction

Visit <http://www.bcauction.ca> for a listing of items that the BC government has declared surplus. Find used scientific equipment!

5. Conferences, Meetings and Workshops

Silvicultural Systems field tour in the wet ICH and ESSF BEC zones

September 21, 2006

McBride, BC

The tour will visit the Lucille Mountain Silvicultural Systems trial where participants will look at post harvest stand development and effects on biodiversity. Tour leaders will present the 14 year post harvest residual stand assessment results (growth, mortality, wildlife tree attributes, coarse woody debris (CWD) attributes, and caribou forage lichens). The tour will also visit some variable retention blocks near Dome Creek with presenters highlighting the role of the residual stand in maintaining arboreal lichens in the cutblock and adjacent stands. There is no cost for the field tour although participants will need to provide their own lunch (there will be a lunch stop in McBride) and

transportation, although carpooling can be arranged. For more details on the field tour and a registration form visit the following site.
<http://www.forrex.org/news/event.asp?pkey=149>

Science Forum: The Art and Science of Sustainable Forest Management Planning
FORREX Annual General Meeting & Science Forum
September 27 – 28, 2006
Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, BC

For the agenda and all the details, visit: <http://www.forrex.org//AGMScienceForum2006>

Wetland Enhancement Demonstration Event
September 29 -- October 1 2006
Barnhartvale (near Kamloops, BC)

Small ponds will be dug and shaped by an excavator. Generally one wetland will be constructed per day. The workshop, lead by wetland expert/educator Tom Biebighauser, will provide hands-on experience to participants. Participants will learn how to evaluate site suitability and then plan, construct, and revegetate a constructed wetland. A high degree of interest is expected. Optimal group size will vary according to demand and site specifics (12-15 people is the preferred group size with an absolute maximum of 30). Follow-up monitoring by a local volunteer base will determine if goals to create functioning wetlands were met. This demonstration is meant for resource managers, landowners, ranchers, equipment operators, community volunteers, educators, students and land users. For more information, contact Ministry of Environment, phone: (250) 371-6200 or email: Sarma.Liepins@gov.bc.ca

Western International Forest Disease Work Conference
October 2-6, 2006
Smithers BC

Includes photo contest. Full details are at:
<http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/wif/index.htm>

Canadian Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Network 2006
October 27-29, 2006
Victoria BC

Presentations and posters for CARCNET sessions are open to all aspects of the conservation biology of amphibians and reptiles and herpetological research (e.g. population and metapopulation dynamics, genetics, diseases, commercial harvest, status assessment, recovery plans, monitoring, habitat protection, etc.). Presentations on public education projects and ethics are also welcome. Details and registration at: <http://www.carcnet.ca/>

Future Landscapes in the Canadian Rockies: Integrating Human Dimensions with Ecosystem Management
November 13-15, 2006
Canmore, Alberta

The Central Rockies ecosystem encompasses a broad range of landscapes from mountain peaks to highly productive montane grasslands, from remote wilderness parks to areas of intense human activity. This conference will encompass the complex issues of integrating human values and perspectives with the application of science-based ecosystem management and restoration tools. Issues surrounding climate change, wildlife, fire and water management will be explored within the context of management tools, human dimensions, and future landscapes. Details are at: http://www.cd.gov.ab.ca/enjoying_alberta/parks/featured/kananaskis/creilg/index.asp

Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology annual science meeting
February 2007
Victoria BC

This organization focuses on vertebrates (note: includes fish) of the Pacific Northwest, from northern California to Alaska and the Yukon. Its journal *Northwestern Naturalist*; and the newsletter *Murreletter* are produced three times a year. The Society also produces a series of occasional monographs, *Northwest Fauna*. Founded in 1920 as the Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Society, its mandate was expanded in 1988 to include amphibians and reptiles, and in 1999 to include fish. More information on the Society at www.snwvb.org

[CMI Members' update for October 16, 2006](#)

1. CMI News

Our bear conference is shaping up well for next week. We have over 110 people attending with room for a few more people if you are interested in registering. An agenda and all the details are on our web site at <http://www.cmiae.org/conferences.htm#Bear>

2. New Book

Wildlife and Trees in British Columbia

by Mike Fenger, Todd Manning, John Cooper, Stewart Guy and Peter Bradford.

Softcover • 5.5" x 8.5" • 336 pages. Retail List Price \$29.95. ISBN 10 1-55105-071-4

The authors of this newly released book published by Lone Pine Publishing are known to many of us in CMI. I've already picked up a copy. Here's the description from the publisher:

"This book is designed for anyone interested in or involved with forests, from foresters and civic planners to naturalists and woodlot owners. It explains what wildlife trees are and how they are used by 66 species of birds and mammals. It offers well-researched and practical recommendations to protect biological diversity at both local and regional levels."

3. Plants and Molecular Ecology - article

Plant taxonomy and biosystematics — does DNA provide all the answers?

Author: Stace, Clive A. Source: [Taxon](#), Volume 54, Number 4, November 2005, pp. 999-1007(9)

Abstract at: <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/iapt/tax/2005/00000054/00000004/art00015>

The use of DNA in wildlife studies is growing, and it's growing among plant taxonomists too. This paper is an attempted discussion on the extent to which we can afford to rely solely upon DNA sequences to unravel the evolution of and relationships between plants, and on the principles underlying our utilisation of DNA data in making taxonomic decisions.

CMI Members' update for November 8, 2006

1. CMI News

The summary for our May caribou conference is now available at our web site. You can download this 3.5 MB PDF document at: http://www.cmiae.org/pdf/Caribou_2006_conf_summary.pdf

Thanks again to our conference sponsors and partners, which were:

- BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands Species at Risk Coordination Office
- BC Ministry of Environment
- BC Ministry of Forests and Range
- BC Timber Sales
- Canfor Corporation
- City of Revelstoke
- Columbia Basin Trust through the Columbia Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership
- Forest Practices Board
- Global Precision Inc.
- Mountain Labyrinths Inc.
- Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation
- Veridian Ecological Consulting
- West Fraser Timber
- Weyerhaeuser Company Limited

Planning has begun for our next conference, to be held in fall 2007. It will be another in our series of "Roads, Rails, and Environment" conferences, and offer a venue to hear about environmental management of transportation corridors in western Canada.

2. Mountain Caribou Science Team documents

The Species at Risk Coordination office of the BC government's Integrated Land Management Bureau has posted these documents at: <http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/sarco/mc/>

3. Climate Change in the Columbia Basin

The Columbia Basin Trust has released findings from their climate change research project, which was done with the assistance of the Pacific Climate Change Impact Consortium from the University of Victoria and a number of other scientific researchers. The purpose of the project was to provide a preliminary analysis of historic climate trends in the Canadian portion of the Columbia River Basin as well as an overview of future predicted climate variability and climate change, with a focus on potential impacts on water resources. The research team has put together a summary report that captures the key findings from this project and discusses the broader implications for various sectors and our quality of life in the Basin. You can access it from the front page of the CBT web site at www.cbt.org or go straight to the report at this address:

<http://www.cbt.org/main/Columbia%20Basin%20Climate%20Change%20Dialogue%20Brochure.pdf>

4. Huckleberry Users' and Buyers' Survey

If you know of people who are buying or harvesting huckleberries (not necessarily commercial harvesting), please pass this request on to them.

The Centre for Non-Timber Resources at Royal Roads University invites you to participate in an online Huckleberry Buyers' or Harvesters' Survey; the survey is part of a research project investigating the commercial, cultural, and recreational uses of huckleberries in the Kootenays. The project is funded by the Sustainable Forest Management Network grant entitled: "Commercial Development of NTFPs and Forest Bio-Products: Critical Factors for Success." Survey questions cover huckleberry ecology, socio-economic conditions, institutional characteristics and policy, prices and marketing, and harvesting and buying trends. Data collected from these surveys will be used to ascertain the opportunities and barriers to successful huckleberry commercialization and recommend measures to enhance huckleberry production. The survey will take 30-45 minutes to complete. Surveys are anonymous and all results are confidential. If you are unable to answer all questions posed, they will gladly accept partially completed surveys. Click on one of the following links:

Huckleberry Buyers' Survey Link:

<http://learn.royalroads.ca/DLOpenQuestions/Questions.asp?intContainerID=7575&StyleSheet=admin.css>

Huckleberry Harvesters' Survey Link:

<http://learn.royalroads.ca/DLOpenQuestions/Questions.asp?intContainerID=7561&StyleSheet=admin.css>

5. Events and Conferences

Head Banger Tours

November 11 and 18, 2006

Radium Hot Springs

This November, take a "ewe turn" to Radium Hot Springs, B.C. and discover the Bighorn sheep rut in the first annual Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Educational Tour. The Village of Radium, the eastern slopes of the Columbia Valley and the southern portion of Kootenay National Park are home to 160 Bighorn sheep. National park staff will show you the world of wild sheep in their natural habitat. Learn how fire and grassland restoration are improving life for the Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep. To reserve your seat or for more information call the Radium Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-347-9704

Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep – Free Information Session

7 p.m. Thursday November 16th

Radium Resort, Radium BC

Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep are a species-at-risk in the East Kootenay. Plus, they have a moving story to tell. In 2005 the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program was part of a team that helped re-locate 25 sheep from the Radium area south to Wasa. Find out how those sheep have settled in and how their move is helping to support local herds that were on the decline. This session is hosted by the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program with local biologists Larry Ingham, Dave Lewis, and Irene Teske.

British Columbia Protected Areas Research Forum

December 4th – 6th, 2006

Royal Roads University, Victoria

This is the BCPARF's first annual conference. The goal of BCPARF is to facilitate and promote parks and protected areas research in British Columbia and with neighbours in Alberta, Yukon, Alaska and Washington. This conference will focus on Fostering Connections between Protected Areas and Research with a goal of building partnerships and exchanging information, ideas and best practices. For details and registration, go to:

<http://www.unbc.ca/bcparf/conferences/index.html>

The Central Rockies Ecosystem Interagency Liaison Group (CREILG) 2006 Conference
Future Landscapes in the Canadian Rockies: Integrating Human Dimensions with Ecosystem Management
November 13-15, 2006
Canmore AB

This conference will encompass the complex issues of integrating human values and perspectives with the application of science-based ecosystem management and restoration tools. Issues surrounding climate change, wildlife, fire and water management will be explored within the context of management tools, human dimensions and future landscapes. Details are at:

<http://www.biosphereinstitute.org>

One final thing - if you, like me, are astonished at the amount of precipitation we've been having, you can track the numbers for a few of the cities in our region at www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca and look in "Past Weather" on the left hand menu. You can access "climate normals and averages" and "climate data online". Information for more weather stations can be found in the customized search area. I learned that Revelstoke had more precipitation by November 7 than we usually receive in the entire month of November.

CMI Members' update for November 24, 2006

1. Job Opportunities

BC Government positions

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

Did you know that the BC Government posts jobs at their Public Service web site? You can browse by region, by ministry, and by category. This is a new part of the web site and there are still a few glitches. ted as in Victoria in this week's edition of CSD Fast Facts)

2. Report on Bird Species and Climate Change – World Wildlife Fund

The report, "Bird Species and Climate Change: The Global Status Report" reviews more than 200 scientific articles on birds in every continent to build up a global picture of climate change impacts. It finds a clear and escalating pattern of climate change impacts on bird species around the world, suggesting a trend towards a major bird extinction from global warming. To download the report, go to:

http://www.panda.org:80/news_facts/publications/index.cfm?uNewsID=86520

3. Conferences and Workshops

Call for Papers - Joint Annual Meeting of the Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology
in conjunction with Northwest Scientific Association and Northwest Lichenologists
February 21-24, 2007
Victoria, BC

Includes symposium, speakers, meetings, poster session, field trips and a workshop on Graphic Design and Communication Skills for Science Publishing and Presentations. For all the details visit: <http://www.snwvb.org/annualmeeting.html>

The BC Lakes Stewardship Society is launching their "LakeKeeper Workshops" this spring. They are looking for individuals with a knowledge and/or background in the following science related fields; biology, freshwater science, fisheries and limnology. Those interested in pursuing this opportunity will be trained and certified by qualified BCLSS board members, through their "Train the Trainers" LakeKeeper program. They are looking for looking for instructors in the following regions of BC: Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, Omenica Peace, Smithers/North Coast, Kootenays, Okanagan, and the Thompson Nicola. Each LakeKeeper workshop will be approximately 1- 1.5 days long and will be offered once or twice a year. These are not volunteer positions; each certified instructor will be compensated for their time, travel and any other related expenses. If you are interested, please fill in the online questionnaire at www.bclss.org, to fill in the questionnaire online. For more information contact Heidi Hicks(250) 717 1212, Kelowna BC.

Aliens Beware
Invasive Plant Council of BC Annual Forum
January 23-24, 2006
Richmond BC

The two day forum will include a wide range of energetic speakers that will cover all aspects of invasive plant management, including what's new in bio-control, how best to manage for different invasive plants, and what's involved in risk assessments. You can also find out more about the economic impacts of invasive plants as well as ways the horticulture industry can prune invasive plant spread. For details contact Gail Wallin, Executive Director of the IPC in Williams Lake: gwallin@wlake.com .

If you have an interest in invasive plants, you will want to visit the web site of the Invasive Plant Council of BC at <http://www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca>.