

Archived CMI Member Bulletins

June to October 2003

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

CMI Members' Update for May 26, 2003

1. CMI News

Our web site receives huge numbers of visitors looking for information about bears, and I frequently get emails asking for information on hiking safely in bear country. To help meet this information need I have received permission from Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks, and the Friends of Mount Revelstoke and Glacier, to post their booklet, called "Bear Ecology for Safe Hiking in the Columbia Mountains" by Michael Morris. Check it out on our web site at www.cmiae.org and look in the bottom right corner of the front page for the link. The booklet is available in print for \$3.50 plus shipping through the Friends of Mount Revelstoke and Glacier (www.friendsofmountrevelstokeandglacier.bc.ca). The print version has a slightly different title – we changed the title to use key words, to make it easier for the internet search engines to find it.

The attachment is a photo taken by Doug Adama at the CMI Annual Researcher's meeting at Blue Lake. Lots of good news exchanged around the campfire! Left to right standing up are Jackie Morris (me!), CMI President Karen Bray, Directors Chris Steeger and Patrick Daigle, Larry Halverson, and Murray Peterson. The musicians are CMI Vice President Ian Adams on the left, and Rob Walker on the right.

2. Canadian Council on Animal Care Guidelines

The Canadian Council on Animal Care has just released the final version of the Guidelines on the Care and Use of wildlife. It will have various implications for wildlife researchers and managers across Canada and is likely to become a benchmark or standard for many agencies. You can find it at the following link: <http://www.ccac.ca/english/Gdlines/Wildlife/Wildlife.pdf> (730 kb)

3. A Guide to Canada's Species at Risk Act

If you want to know how SARA works, how citizens can become more involved or how to tell if SARA applies to a specific species or area, this comprehensive Guide is for you. The Guide – a Sierra Legal Defence Fund report – was written by Kate Smallwood, who has been working on federal and BC endangered species issues since 1996. The Guide includes both a short introductory section on key terms, the "nuts and bolts" of SARA, opportunities for citizen involvement and a quick checklist as to whether SARA applies, as well as a detailed review of the core components of SARA. If you are interested in a short overview, just read the first 15 pages. The Guide is available in PDF format online at <http://www.sierralegal.org/> (400 kb)

4. Lee Harding Earns His PhD

Congratulations to long-time CMI member Lee Harding, who received his PhD in mid-March. A summary of Lee's work on *Environmental Contaminants and Reproductive and Physiological Condition of Wild Mink, Martens, River Otters, and Wolverines* will be available soon on our web site.

5. Web Site about Western Canadian Glaciers – featuring the Illecillewaet Glacier in Glacier National Park

CMI Member Dr. Dan McCarthy at Brock University supervised the preparation of this web site. It includes sections on: Recent Climate Change in the Canadian Rockies; Researcher's Guide to the Illecillewaet Glacier; Photographic History of the Illecillewaet Glacier (awesome collection of photos, Dan!); Using Lichens and Trees to Estimate the Timing of Past Glacial Activity; Glaciology at the Geological Survey of Canada; Rivers of Life; and Fun with Glaciers. "Fun with Glaciers" includes "Find and Click on the Lost Gear". Hmm Dan, wonder how you thought of that game? Dan will be adding to the site as time permits. View it at:

<http://www.brocku.ca/virtualmuseum/>

6. Courses and Workshops

Introduction to Culturally Modified Trees

June 4-5, 2003

UNBC Prince George

The 2 day class and field course will give an introduction to Culturally Modified Trees (CMTs) that will be useful for archaeological field assistants, but also to professionals and technicians in the forest industry, and land managers. The course will involve several main components: current legislation governing CMT recording and protection; introduction to CMT types, to include forest harvesting in traditional northern interior aboriginal economies, why trees are felled, stripped, or otherwise modified in different ways;

the identification criteria for cultural vs. natural scars; importance of proper recording techniques, including obtaining dates with dendrochronology. For complete details and registration go to: <http://www.unbc.ca/conted/>

The University of Northern BC offers several other courses that may be of interest to CMI members. Visit their web site to find out how to be put on their list serve for course announcements.

CMI Members' Update for June 4, 2003

1. CMI News

CMI has offered to host the Mountain Caribou Compendium. The Compendium includes 125 research papers related to Mountain Caribou management. It was prepared by Shannon Stotyn and Jessica Saunders for the Revelstoke Forest Workers Group earlier this year. A set of print copies of the material will be housed as a reference collection (non-circulating) at the Revelstoke Branch of the Okanagan Regional Library. The papers will also be available over the internet via the FORREX Natural Resources Information Network (NRIN). Until we sort out copyright issues only the abstracts and citations will be available at NRIN, but in the long term we will have electronic copies of virtually every paper available for download. I already have many of the papers in digital form.

Congratulations to CMI Members Rena Vandenbos and Brendan Wilson, who are expecting their first child next fall. Rena will be taking maternity leave and sent us this job posting for her position at Selkirk College in Castlegar (next item).

2. Improved Endangered Species and Ecosystems Web Site

This month, the BC Conservation Data Centre (CDC) of the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, and the Biodiversity Branch of the Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection, launched an enhanced Endangered Species and Ecosystems web site at:

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

A key component of the web site is an enhanced BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer search application, at:

<http://srmapps.gov.bc.ca/apps/eswp/>

Both the web site and the search application changed their name to include the word "Ecosystems" and now provide access to Natural Plant Communities, Identified Wildlife and Species Recovery Program information. As part of BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer, Reports and References pages are now available for all elements, not just Red- and Blue-listed species. Reports and References include new categories for Recovery Team information and Recovery Plan documents. In addition, there is now a direct link to the BC NatureServe Explorer from plant and animal Reports and Reference pages. Links have been added to hundreds of new documents and there a new list of resources for teachers.

3. Proceedings from Climate Change in Northern BC workshop

Proceedings are now available from Regional Perspectives on Climate Change in Northern BC, held in Prince George in February. This workshop brought together researchers and stakeholders to exchange information on climate change

vulnerability and adaptation in Northern British Columbia. It was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection, C-CIARN BC and the University of Northern British Columbia. Download in PDF format on the C-CIARN BC website:

<http://c-ciarn-bc.ires.ubc.ca/resources/princegeorge.pdf> (71 pages, 619 kb)

4. Roads and Wildlife in the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks

Tony Clevenger has completed his six year project monitoring roads and wildlife in Banff National Park. The citation is:

Clevenger, A.P., Chruszcz, B., Gunson, K., and Wierzchowski, J. 2002. Roads and wildlife in the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks - Movements, mortality and mitigation. Final report to Parks Canada. Banff, Alberta, Canada.

CD copies of the report are available for free by contacting park warden Tom Hurd, 403-762-1402 or tom.hurd@pc.gc.ca

CMI Members' Update for June 25, 2003

1. New Bird Song CD

Discovering Birds and their Songs will help you identify, by sound, birds you are most likely to hear in Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks. This compilation in CD format was produced by the Friends of Mount Revelstoke and Glacier with the assistance and expertise of John Woods, Michael Morris, Ryan Gill and Pat Dunn as part of their work in ecological monitoring in the Parks. It is available through the Friends office (Box 2992, Revelstoke BC V0E 2S0, phone: 250-837-2010, email: fmrg@revelstoke.net) or pick it up at the Glacier Circle Bookstore at the Rogers Pass Centre in Glacier National Park. Cost is \$18.26 including taxes, plus shipping.

2. Conferences and Workshops

Call for Papers

Species At Risk 2004: Pathways to Recovery Conference

March 2-6, 2004

Victoria, British Columbia

The Species at Risk 2004: Pathways to Recovery Conference has four themes related to the conservation and recovery of species and ecosystems at risk:

- The Science of Recovery;
- The Mechanics and Logistics of Recovery;
- The Human Face of Recovery and Stewardship;

Successes and Challenges: Lessons from the Field.

Authors are invited to submit abstracts for proposed presentations and posters that address conference themes and subjects, as described on the conference web site www.speciesatrisk2004.ca . The conference will consist of plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, and focused training workshops. The detailed Call for Papers is available at:

<http://www.speciesatrisk2004.ca/html/papers.html>

Call for Papers

8th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Network

September 11 - 14, 2003

This year, to mark CARCNet's continued commitment to amphibian and reptile conservation we are pleased to hold our

annual conference in conjunction with the Pelee Island Winery Endangered Species Festival. This years' combined festival and scientific conference will take place in the unique ecological setting of Pelee Island, the southern most point in Canada (and home to the only Canadian population of blue racers). Presentations and posters for CARCNet sessions are open to all aspects of the biology of amphibians and reptiles. Presentations will be 15 minutes in length including time for questions. For more info visit: <http://www.carcnet.ca/english/annualmeeting2003.html>

CMI Members' Update for July 18, 2003

1. CMI News

Here is an announcement of an upcoming CMI course.

DNA-Based Wildlife Studies:

Study Design, Field Methods, Genetic Analysis, and Analysis of Mark-Recapture Data.

Late November 2003

Nelson BC

This three day course will repeat of our fully-subscribed [2002 course](#), with a few improvements to the course content. Costs and more details will be available later this summer. If you would like to be notified when details are available, contact the CMI office at office@cmiae.org

2. Web Site

Climate Change and British Columbia

http://www.davidsuzuki.org/climate_change/BC

The David Suzuki Foundation has developed a new resource devoted to climate change impacts and solutions in British Columbia. Find out how climate change is affecting BC's environment and its economy. Read about solutions municipal governments can take to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Learn about how the provincial government can make clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency cornerstones of its energy policy.

3. On-line Reports and Documents

Climate Change: We are at Risk

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/37/2/parlbus/commbus/senate/com-e/agri-e/rep-e/repintjun03-e.htm>

This is the title of the interim report (June 2003) from the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry. Details in the Senate report might be useful for those writing letters of interest for the recently announced CCAF (Climate Change Action Fund) research funding opportunities. The final report is expected in October 2003.

Evaluation of Wildlife Tree Retention for Cutblocks Harvested Between 1996-2001 under the Forest Practices Code

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

Over the last several years, the Forest Service, in partnership with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection has been conducting an evaluation of wildlife tree management in British Columbia. In this evaluation, 128 randomly selected cutblocks from 12 forest districts, representing each forest region and seven of the province's 14 BEC zones, were evaluated using a standardized methodology. This evaluation has now been completed and is available on-line at the address above.

Canadian Rocky Mountains Ecosystem Assessment

<http://www.natureconservancy.ca>

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (BC and Alberta), The Nature Conservancy (Montana and Idaho, and Freshwater Initiative), and their numerous partners in BC, Washington, Alberta, Idaho, and Montana have completed a draft of the Canadian Rocky Mountains Ecoregional Assessment. To view the report and maps go the web site noted above; follow the link to the BC page; click on the Science link (on the left); and then the Canadian Rockies icon on the right side of the page. Comments and corrections are welcome. They are producing a final report with CD-ROM in the near future.

Manual of Common Diseases and Parasites of Wildlife in Northern British Columbia

http://www.unbc.ca/nlui/wildlife_diseases_bc/

Helen Schwantje has been working with UNBC to produce this excellent manual. It was designed to be used by persons in northern British Columbia who encounter anomalies in wildlife. The manual will be particularly useful for groups that use wild animals as a food source, such as First Nations people or hunters, and for trappers that are in direct contact with wildlife. It is anticipated that this resource will provide information on specific wildlife health issues, and heighten awareness of wildlife diseases in general. You can search for diseases by the part of the body affected, or search by causative agent. Contains many links for more information. It's available on-screen or you can download the whole manual as a PDF file.

End of the Road: The Adverse Ecological Impacts of Roads and Logging: A Compilation of Independently Reviewed Research

<http://www.nrdc.org/land/forests/roads/eotrx.asp>

This annotated bibliography provides an overview of primary research, almost all from peer-reviewed journals, documenting the adverse impacts of roads and logging on North American forest ecosystems. The bibliography was published in December 1999 by the Natural Resources Defence Council.

4. Conferences and Meetings

Wildlife Disease Association 52nd Annual Conference

August 11-14, 2003

Saskatoon Saskatchewan

This conference will consist of presentations and posters on all aspects of wild animal diseases world-wide. Special sessions are being planned on three topics: the Population Effects of Disease; Immune Function and Other Bioindicators of Disease; and Cervid Diseases. In addition to the WDA Conference itself, the American College of Zoological Medicine (ACZM) will offer a one-day [Preparatory Course](#) on the preceding Sunday (August 10, 2002), and CCWHC will offer a one-day [International Workshop on Chronic Wasting Disease](#) on the following Friday (August 15, 2002).

For full details go to: <http://www.wildlifedisease.org/>

Forest Land – Fish Conference II :Ecosystem Stewardship Through Collaboration

April 2004

Edmonton Alberta

The first Forest Land-Fish Conference focused on the effects of land-use activities on aquatic resources. This second conference will advance to the conservation of aquatic resources, particularly in boreal regions. Suggested topics are cumulative watershed effects, access management, and riparian management.

Visit their web site to be put on the distribution list for conference details as they develop:

<http://www.tucanada.org/forestlandfish2/>

CMI Members' Update for August 19, 2003

1. CMI News

We have a date for the next "DNA-Based Wildlife Studies" course. It will be in Nelson on December 2-4, 2003. The course content will be similar to last year's with some small refinements. (You can see last year's info on our web site at www.cmiae.org and look in the "Past Workshops" section for the write-up.) This year the course will be taught by John Woods, David Paetkau, Garth Mowat, and John Boulanger. I will send out full details and registration information next week.

2. A Forest That Stopped a Fire Cold

Forest fires on your mind these days? You may be interested in an article about how a fire in California responded when it encountered silvicultural test plots. Trees had been thinned and experienced a controlled burn, creating an open forest, much the way it might have been 500 years ago when regular forest fires swept through the high dry country. Read the article at: <http://www.tribnet.com/news/story/3503874p-3535257c.html>

3. Publications Of Note

Now available online in FORREX's "LINK" Newsletter

The following are excerpts from some of this summer's articles. Read the complete articles online at www.forrex.org/LINK

What resource managers need to know about SARA

by Janet Jeffery, Extension Projects Assistant

How will the new Species at Risk Act (SARA) impact resource management decisions and resource users in British Columbia? This is the question resource managers in British Columbia are asking as they try to understand the implications of the new federal Species at Risk Act. However, this question is difficult to answer because the legal issues surrounding the legislation are complex, and the opinions about its usefulness, varied. This article summarizes the main components of SARA and supplies web links related to the Act and the debate surrounding this new legislation.

Landbird group wants to maintain birds, habitat health

by Shawna Pelech, Canadian Wildlife Service and Susan Leech, Conservation Biology Extension Specialist

Are you interested in monitoring bird populations across the land you are managing? If you are grappling with the decision of which species you should monitor, you may be interested in linking with Partners in Flight. Partners in Flight or PIF, is an international partnership of government agencies, industry, non-government organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, First Nations, and the public whose vision is to maintain the health of native landbirds and their habitats.

How to conduct a historical forest ecology project: Guidebook for managers and researchers

by Andra Bismanis, Research Assistant and Dr. Stephen Dewhurst, Assistant Professor, Ecosystem Science and Management, UNBC

Historical forest ecology is the process of using historical forest information to understand the past structure and function of a forest ecosystem. This process provides a methodology for locating and analyzing historical information to support sustainable forest management plans. By providing a context for understanding present conditions in the face of past industrial land management and climate change, this process may form the preliminary stage of an ecological restoration forest management strategy.

Modelling timber harvesting effects on fish stream habitat: A new strategic-level forest planning tool:

Frank Heinzlmann, ForestWerks Research and Consulting Inc.

How effective are current regulations and rules in preventing negative impacts on aquatic stream systems? How do alternative forest management strategies affect fish habitat in the long term? What are the potential trade-offs between forest

management strategies and acceptable aquatic habitat conditions?

CMI Members' Update for September 16, 2003

1. CMI News

Have you looked at the Mountain Caribou Compendium on our web site? This is a collection of 125 reports about mountain caribou. The print version is housed at the Revelstoke Library (non-circulating collection), and an on-line version that includes abstracts but not the articles, is on our web site. You can view the abstracts for the 125 articles on-screen or download the abstracts in an MS Word file, and search for keywords with your Word search function. Go to www.cmiae.org and look in the "Mountain Caribou Compendium" section.

The CMI will begin collecting GST on registration fee and memberships as of October 1.

The CMI Directors and Research Associates are planning to meet for the afternoon of October 2 in Revelstoke, to talk about CMI issues and opportunities.

Did you know that CMI has 60 individual members and 29 corporate members? Our email updates go out to 250+ people. To view a list of our corporate members, look at our web site in the "About CMI" section.

2. Root Rot Tracker Software

The most recent listing of the University of Northern BC Continuing Education Course Offerings includes a course demonstrating Root Rot Tracker, a simulation program for tracking the spread of forest root diseases. For information on this and their other courses, visit:

<http://www.unbc.ca/conted/>

3. Stand of giant cottonwoods found in southeastern BC

A grove of giant cottonwood trees that rival Canada's famed coastal cedars and firs in both age and girth has been discovered in the southern Rockies. The trees are close to 400 years old and up to 10 metres around. "They are, by far, the oldest known cottonwoods in the world," says Stewart Rood, a tree specialist at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, who describes the trees in the current issue of the Canadian Journal of Botany.

The above paragraph is excerpted from a Canwest News Service article. Read the whole article at:

<http://www.canada.com/search/story.aspx?id=8695d1a6-21f0-4064-891f-5d5e314e08fb>

Or. Go to the Canadian Journal of Botany article (444kb PDF) at:

<http://article.pubs.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/ppv/RPViewDoc?handler=HandleInitialGet&journal=cjb&volume=81&calyLang=eng&articleFile=b03-065.pdf>

Did you know about the National Research Council's free access to major Canadian journals?

Go to http://pubs.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/rp2_home_e.html

4. BC Mushrooms Web Site

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

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

5. Services available at Predator Conservation Alliance Web site

http://www.predatorconservation.org/predator_info/Forest_Clearinghouse/forestclearinghousemain.html

This US group has assembled annotated bibliographies of the most important research and management documents regarding these forest carnivores - wolves, grizzly bears, lynx, wolverines, fishers, martens, Northern goshawks, cougars, black bears, and coyotes - including links to current federal and state management plans, US Endangered Species Act listing decisions, and more. The site has a US perspective but will be of interest to Canadians.

CMI Members' Update for October 7, 2003

1. CMI News

Registrations are going well for the "Applying DNA Methods to the Study of Wildlife Distribution and Abundance" course to be held in Nelson on December 1-4. We have 4 spots left.

At our October 2 CMI Directors' meeting we made some changes regarding topics for future workshops. Due to time constraints for our volunteer workshop organizers, overlap with other large conferences, and shrinking financial resources for people that would like to attend our workshops, we have re-thought next year's events. Our major event for next year will now be an October 2004 workshop on fire management in the ESSF/ICH – what was learned from this summer's fire season, what to look for in the future, etc. A description of the workshop will be out in the next few weeks. If you have topics you want to see covered, or suggestions for good speakers, please call me at the CMI office.

We are thinking of holding a two-day refresher course on statistics, for ecologists. The course comes highly recommended by those who have taken it before. We don't have a detailed description, costs, or dates available yet, but I'd appreciate a note from you if you think this is something you would find useful. If we have enough interest we will proceed with setting up the course.

If you have suggestions for a CMI course or information session, please pass them on! We prefer to hold specialized events that aren't available through other institutions. Refresher courses are always good; so are sessions on how to use new techniques.

2. Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program -- Project Updates

The newest Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program newsletter is now in distribution. It is 16 pages long and provides updates on current CBF&WCP projects. If you missed it you can download it from www.cbfishwildlife.org or request a print copy from Barry Bartlett at (250) 352-6874 (barry.bartlett@bchydro.bc.ca).

3. Representative Needed for Revelstoke-Golden-McBride Area

The Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program is calling for nominations for a north Kootenay public representative to serve on the CBF&WCP Steering Committee. This person will help guide the CBF&WCP activities and should be well acquainted with local fish and wildlife groups and issues. The deadline for nominations for this volunteer position is October 14. For more information call 250-352-6874 or visit www.cbfishwildlife.org.

4. Workshops and Courses

Communities and Natural Resources in Transition:

Linking social science and practitioners for a sustainable future
University of Northern BC - Prince George, BC
February 18 & 19, 2004

Historically the linkages between natural resource management, the social sciences, and forest-based communities, including

First Nations, have been weak. The new global emphasis on science-based sustainable forest management requires improved and innovative social and economic research and practices. No where is this situation more pressing than in British Columbia where timber market pressures, public policy changes, timber sector restructuring, and massive mountain pine beetle salvage operations are changing the human links to our natural resources. If you are interested in presenting a paper, participating in a workshop, hosting a practice showcase or joining the poster session contact: Cindy Pearce at cindypearce@telus.net by October 15, 2003. For more information and to pre-register, visit <http://www.unbc.ca/conted/socialsciences>

Species At Risk 2004 – Pathways to Recovery

March 2-4, 2004

Victoria BC

The Species at Risk 2004 conference will be a forum for learning, training, and technology and knowledge transfer between scientists, managers, non-governmental organizations, policymakers, First Nations, industry, academia, students and other interested individuals in the recovery of species and ecosystems at risk. There is a high level of interest and the conference is expected to attract up to 1000 delegates. On-line registration for the Species At Risk 2004 conference opens October 15, 2003. The deadline for abstract submissions is also October 15. Exhibit spaces are available at a discounted price until November 1. See the conference website for details, www.speciesatrisk2004.ca

5. British Columbia Grasslands – Monitoring Vegetation Change

FORREX has released a new publication about Monitoring Vegetation Change in Grasslands. Here is the abstract:

The concept of succession is fundamental to understanding and managing British Columbia's grasslands. Grassland succession is affected by abiotic and biotic influences—fire and grazing, in particular, are natural disturbances central to the process of vegetation change. Many provincial grasslands are subjected to both domestic and wild ungulate grazing, and vegetation monitoring must be able to quantify these impacts separately. This publication summarizes current knowledge of the province's grassland vegetation, touching briefly on origin and distribution, and current concepts of succession. Vegetation dynamics, disturbance ecology, and methods of monitoring are looked at in detail. Several case studies of range reference areas (range areas that exclude grazing) are discussed to highlight how successional data is used to monitor grasslands.

Gayton, D.V. 2003. Monitoring Vegetation Change. FORREX-Forest Research Extension Partnership. Kamloops, B.C. FORREX Series 7. [Online]. Available in two parts, at:

http://www.forrex.org/publications/FORREXSeries/FS7_Part1.pdf

http://www.forrex.org/publications/FORREXSeries/FS7_Part2.pdf