

	Future Forest Ecosystems Scientific Council Seminar Series 2012
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Managing for the ecological and socioeconomic effects of climate change on BC rangelands

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39 research partners are involved in this project

Abstract

Rangelands, especially grasslands, are threatened by urban development, agricultural conversion, tree encroachment and infill and inappropriate grazing. Global climate change has the potential to interact with the above disturbances, but the consequences of these interactions for rangelands in B.C. are not known. The interacting effects of disturbance caused by grazing and climate-change, a biological stress on plant communities, will not likely be uniform across rangelands. Variation of response is expected between northern and southern latitudes of the province and by species; furthermore, the response of a species may depend on its local environment including soil and site conditions. The effect of climate change on rangelands was investigated using a multi-pronged approach: a review of past and ongoing climate change experiments, field experimentation, socioeconomic analysis of natural goods and services, a survey of the ranching community to determine the ranching perception of climate change, and incorporating the ecological and socioeconomic findings in an integrated range management plan.

Biography

Dr. Lauchlan H Fraser is a Professor and Canada Research Chair in Community and Ecosystem Ecology at Thompson Rivers University (TRU), British Columbia, Canada. After completing his doctorate at the University of Sheffield, UK, Dr. Fraser pursued his post-doctoral studies at the University of Ottawa, Canada and an Assistant Professorship at the University of Akron, USA. With over 45 peer-reviewed publications and editor of 'Worlds Largest Wetlands' published by Cambridge University Press, Dr. Fraser's research interests include grassland and wetland ecosystem studies. Dr. Fraser is an Associate Editor of the scientific journals *Applied Vegetation Science* and *Plant Ecology*. He also serves as Vice-Chair of the Grasslands Conservation Council. Dr. Fraser spear-headed the development of the new MSc in Environmental Sciences at TRU and was the founding chair of the program. Surrounded by a rich diversity of temperate grasslands and grassland-associated wetlands in the Southern Interior of BC, Dr. Fraser and his students continue studies on these unique and important ecosystems.