

|                                                                                  |                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <b>Future Forest Ecosystems Scientific Council<br/>Seminar Series 2012</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Communicating Science for Climate Change Adaptation

July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012

|                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <b>Dr. Tracy Summerville</b><br>Associate Professor, Political Science<br>University of Northern British Columbia<br><a href="mailto:summervi@unbc.ca">summervi@unbc.ca</a> | <b>Dr. Keith Egger</b> , Professor<br>Ecosystem Science & Management Program<br>University of Northern British Columbia<br><a href="mailto:egger@unbc.ca">egger@unbc.ca</a> |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

with Scott Green, Ken Wilkening, Loraine Lavallee, Alvaro Palazuelos; Daniel Iwama

### Abstract

The research question that we advanced at the outset of our project was, “What is the most effective way to incorporate science into an integrated community sustainability plan?” Many communities have been involved in long term sustainability planning. Requirements for community participation and involvement are often central to these processes. Long term sustainability requires an understanding of how landscapes will change over time, but how are citizens to participate in sustainability planning without the concomitant information about potential changes to the landscape? How is it possible to integrate scientific models and data into the imagined projections of a community’s future?

We suggest that an effective way to incorporate science into a sustainability plan is to create visualizations of the outcomes of the community plan integrating the science into the landscape and therefore eliminating the need to articulate complex scientific concepts to a public that does not have the tools to conceptualize and analyze scientific data. In order to explain and demonstrate the research outcomes, we will provide a background to the genesis of this project and explain the evolution of the approach and methods we employed. We will discuss the visualizations that were created for this project and the survey data that we collected on the impact of the visualizations. We will also discuss how this work might be extended in long range forest planning processes.

### Biography

Dr. Tracy Summerville is an Associate Professor of Political Science at UNBC and the Coordinator of the Foundation Year Curriculum Program. Her research includes work on sustainable communities and a study on the impacts of globalization on northern British Columbia. Her recent work includes a co-edited volume on *British Columbia Politics and Government* (2010) and she is the co-author of *Canadian Natural Resource and Environmental Politics: Political Economy and Public Policy*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (2005).

Dr. Keith Egger is a Professor in the Ecosystem Science & Management Program at UNBC. His research encompasses microbial ecology and the impacts of climate change on microbial communities with an emphasis on arctic and boreal systems.