

RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

How Field-based Research and a Systems Perspective can Increase Industry Competitiveness and Innovation while Minimizing Risk to the Crown



**Craig DeLong, Ecologist
Prince George**

Abstract

Industry and government spend 100's of millions of dollars a year on forest management treatments like planting, spacing, fertilization, and brushing and weeding. Field observations by trained observers (e.g., field scientists, naturalists) and long-term field data can provide valuable information on the effectiveness of forest management treatments. Much of the past research on forest treatments has been reductionist where many factors are controlled for, and one aspect (tree growth) is measured and reported. Some conclusions based on reductionist science can be short-sighted and lead to poor investments. I will provide examples of how field-based research and a systems perspective could have saved considerable expenditures on treatments where either response was limited or the outcome was risky. In conclusion, I will provide some suggestions as to how we can improve the translation of research to application to improve industry competitiveness and innovation while minimizing risk to the crown.

Bio

Craig DeLong is a professional biologist who has a BSc in Biology and an MSc in Natural Resources Management. Craig's areas of responsibility include forest ecology research and ecosystem classification and interpretation. His current interests are natural disturbance dynamics at multiple scales and refining climate change predictions to the site level. The main goal of Craig's research is to maintain ecosystem integrity and function while reducing the cost of forest management through a better understanding of forest ecosystems.



When: December 14, 2010 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Location: Prince George: Heritage Room, Northern Interior Regional MFR Office

Conference call: 1-877-353-9184 Conference ID: 7190434

Common meeting rooms have been reserved in the following locations:

Kamloops: Juniper room, Southern Interior Regional MFR Office

Victoria: Room 502, 727 Fisgard Street

Smithers: Driftwood Room, Skeena-Stikine Forest District Office

Nanaimo: Birch Room at 2100 Labieux Rd.

A PowerPoint presentation will be available at http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hre/research_seminars on the day of the presentation.

For further information, contact Robin Pike at: Robin.G.Pike@gov.bc.ca or 250 387-6780.