



Call for Presentations

Resource Roads in British Columbia: Environmental challenges at a landscape level

**May 14-15, 2014
Nelson BC**

Call for presentations closes on November 22, 2013

Conference description

Within BC, paved and unpaved road length increased by 82% between 1988 and 2005. In 2000, there were over 420 thousand road-stream crossings in BC; over the following five years, road-stream crossings increased by about 13 thousand per year (BC Ministry of Environment 2007). Across the province, estimates of unpaved roads vary from 400 to 550 thousand km (Forest Practices Board 2005).

Since then, more roads have been built by companies in the forest, oil, gas, mineral, and hydro-electric sectors. At the same time, many roads have been abandoned and have become unusable due to a lack of resources for maintenance; others have been intentionally closed or decommissioned. Thus recreational access has been constrained. The environmental effects of roads are diverse, and include impacts on aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, plants, and their habitats, as well as ecosystem and biophysical processes (including soils, water, and air).

At this conference, we'll address road-network effects and management responses for addressing landscape-level environmental and social impacts. Topics of interest include road effects, strategic planning, tools, and administration.

We anticipate talks that summarize the positive and negative effects of road networks across large regions or landscapes. We'll follow this with specific research findings and case studies. As well, we expect talks will address strategic road-network solutions. It's likely we'll have a panel to address road-related regulatory aspects.

Who is this conference for?

We expect a diverse group will attend with participation by industry, government, First Nations, non-governmental, and academic organizations. As well, consultants and public user groups are welcomed. This event will be useful for:

- Land and resource planners, road-network planners, biologists, foresters, ecologists, agrologists, road engineers, and water and soils specialists.
- Managers who consider and authorize road permits.
- Professionals and supervisors involved with environmental or cumulative effects assessments
- Specialists and supervisors involved with road plans, layout, design, construction, maintenance, as well as people involved with closing (e.g., seasonal use) or obliterating roads (e.g., eliminating the travel function).

***The conference program will consist of presentations, posters and field-trips.
We're asking for proposals on the following themes and topics:***

- **Strategic approach** – How do environmental considerations play into strategic planning, authorizing, designing, constructing, maintaining, and decommissioning of resource road networks? What would a successful approach look like? What can we learn from the management of the impacts of other linear corridors (e.g., rails, highways, and energy corridors such as seismic, power, and pipe lines)?
 - *Inventories and mapping* – What is the status of road inventories? What data and maps could support better environmental management practices? What are the spatial and temporal data gaps? How will data and maps (and analyses) be stored and accessed?
 - *Regulatory frameworks* – In BC, what are the existing road-related laws, regulations, and policies? What changes would support better environmental management? How does road-network planning link to authorizations for road construction?
 - *Planning tools* – How can available tools help during road-network planning? Examples: road inventories, inventory analysis tools, remote sensing images, Geographic Information Systems, and computer models.
 - *Funding* – Planning, designing, building, maintaining, and repairing roads costs money. Who ought to pay for this? Who pays for closing or decommissioning roads and monitoring the impacts of roads? What are the costs and benefits of maintaining roads for recreational use? What funding models are available? How can funding be used strategically?
 - *Integrated Decision Making (IDM)* – How can IDM help focus limited funds on assessing, planning, building, maintaining, upgrading, as well as closing or obliterating roads?
- **Road effects** – What are the positive and negative effects of road networks on environmental values at a landscape or watershed level? How can negative impacts be avoided, minimized, or offset? How can the negative effects of old roads be repaired?
- **Cumulative effects** – When considering the cumulative effects of human and natural disturbances, what are the impacts of road networks? How do environmental assessments address road network development and road access management, and take into account the cumulative effects of existing and anticipated road networks?
- **Climate change effects** -- How can road network management address changing climate/weather patterns that may lead to increase of peak-water flows and thus will affect road-stream crossing design and increase risks of flooding or culvert blow-outs at existing stream crossings.
- **Road-access management**-- Citizens have frequently been vocal regarding their use of roads on public lands. For BC residents and tourists interested in recreation, what are the impacts of the gradual loss or deterioration of road networks?
 - Are there structured approaches for assessing road networks and planning road access in a collaborative and constructive way? Can these approaches inform decision-making by clarifying benefits, liabilities, concerns, opportunities, risks, and trade-offs? Do these address agency and industry responsibilities, land objectives, legislation and policies, coordinated planning, funding, and effectiveness monitoring?
 - With consideration of limited financial resources and public and commercial recreation, how can access to road networks be planned and managed?

We welcome your suggestions for presentations on related topics not listed here.

Submit your abstract before November 22, 2013

Submission guidelines for presentations and posters are available at:

<http://www.cmiae.org/submission-guidelines.php>

Sign up to receive CMI's event announcements at:

<http://www.cmiae.org/Forms/event-notice.php>

If you are selected to be a presenter, you will need to provide a **text summary** of your presentation (not PowerPoint slides) for the conference proceedings, before the conference. A description of what is required is at:

<http://www.cmiae.org/submission-guidelines.php#SubmitTextSummary>

If you would like to offer a 15 minute MS PowerPoint presentation, please send a title, an abstract, and your full contact information to the Columbia Mountains Institute. Longer presentations may be accommodated with advanced planning. There will be time for a few questions after your presentation. You are welcome to support your presentation with a poster, i.e. if you have data or other details that people will want to examine closely.

Posters and displays about your road-related projects are welcome. You are required to send a title, and an abstract or description of your initiative along with contact information and association, at least two weeks before the conference. Your abstract will be included in the conference proceedings.

If you would like to organize a field-trip, please send a title and a description of your proposal, including the location, duration, and logistics of the field-trip, as well as your full contact information to the Columbia Mountains Institute.

Would your company like to become an event sponsor? Read information for sponsors here for more details: <http://www.cmiae.org/info-sponsors.php>

Questions? Please contact:

Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology

Box 2568 Revelstoke BC V0E 2S0

Phone: 250-837-9311 Fax: 250-837-9311

Email: office@cmiae.org Web site: www.cmiae.org