



School of Environmental Studies - Seminar Event

April 19, 2011 @ 12 noon – 1:30 pm

Location: Social Sciences and Mathematics Building, Room A102
University of Victoria

Forest Restoration: Linking Ecological and Social Processes for Landscape Conservation and Sustainability

Thomas D. Sisk

Professor of Ecology

Northern Arizona University

Across western North America, increasing size and destructiveness of wildfires is placing communities and ecosystems at risk. Efforts to restore forests allowing a return to historical fire regimes are hindered by conflicts over forest policy. Like many environmental challenges, the objectives of forest restoration are manifest at broad spatial scales that dwarf previous assessment efforts and cross jurisdictional boundaries, requiring the participation of citizens and land managers. Collaborative approaches that draw on landscape ecology can inform forest assessment and planning, linking ecological and social processes in a manner that informs the policy debate and fosters public participation in a substantive deliberative process. Drawing on efforts integrating field data, remotely sensed imagery, and spatial modeling, Dr. Sisk will discuss an approach to participatory science that allows stakeholders to engage in forest assessment and planning across public lands in the arid south-western USA.



Dr. Tom Sisk, a native of New Mexico, is an ecologist whose work focuses on improving our understanding of environmental change, engaging others in conservation, and helping to provide policy and land management solutions. His research interests include restoration and conservation of biodiversity and sensitive habitats which combine field study, geographic analysis, and spatial modeling. He is currently a Visiting Professor at the University of British Columbia.

A light lunch will be served after the seminar presentation