

B3 - Taking Nature's Pulse: Developing Tools to Conserve BC's Globally Significant Biodiversity

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Presenters:

Stuart Gale - Biodiversity BC
Matt Austin - BC Ministry of Environment
Dan Buffett - Ducks Unlimited

Abstract

Biodiversity BC was formed in 2005 to develop a provincial biodiversity strategy. A science foundation comprised of three major reports - 'Ecological Concepts, Principles and Applications to Conservation'; 'Taking Nature's Pulse: The Status of Biodiversity in British Columbia'; and the 'Biodiversity Atlas of British Columbia' - was recently completed. These reports tell us why biodiversity is important and why we need to pay attention. Taking Nature's Pulse gives the current status of biodiversity, including human-caused threats, and concludes with 23 major findings that highlight the most important issues facing biodiversity in the province. The Atlas - with its 60 maps and accompanying text - provides a window to the province's diverse ecosystems, the species that live in them, and the elements of British Columbia's biodiversity that make it globally significant. The assessment tells us that although biodiversity in British Columbia is in relatively good condition, without immediate action, it is vulnerable to rapid deterioration, especially in light of climate change. The challenges of conserving biodiversity are daunting but not insurmountable. Concerted and collaborative action on the part governments, First Nations, industry, and conservation stakeholders will help to ensure that B.C.'s biodiversity is preserved for the benefit of future generations. This presentation will demonstrate how Biodiversity BC's science foundation - particularly the 23 findings in Taking Nature's Pulse - can be used as a tool to address a wide range of conservation challenges and set priorities for land use planning, resource development and ecological stewardship.

Speaker Biography

Stuart Gale is the executive director of Biodiversity BC, a partnership involving three levels of government and seven conservation organizations. Biodiversity BC was formed in 2005 to develop a science-based action plan for biodiversity conservation in British Columbia. Over the past three years Stuart has led the organization in defining an ecological vision for the province and completing a series of science reports to determine the status of biodiversity and priorities for future conservation action. Stuart is also the principal of a consulting firm where he serves as an environmental mediator and sustainability planner. He has worked on several high profile environmental disputes and has led several multi-party planning processes throughout British Columbia. Stuart has a Masters of Business Administration from the University of British Columbia and a Diploma in Leading Change from the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto. He has also completed studies in mediation and negotiation at the Harvard Program on Negotiation.

Dan Buffett is the regional biologist for the BC Coast Office of Ducks Unlimited Canada and is responsible for conservation planning and research. He works with both government and non-government organizations as well as landowners to protect and restore estuarine and farmland habitat along the BC Coast. Dan has worked with Ducks Unlimited Canada since 1993, and completed his Masters in Resource and Environmental Management from Simon Fraser University in 2006.