



Wildland Research Institute (WRI) launch event

Wildland Research: setting the agenda 2010-2020

10:00am-4:30pm Wednesday 21st October 2009
Charles Thackrah Building, Clarendon Road, University of Leeds

The Wildland Research Institute (WRI) at the University of Leeds is running a cross-agency seminar and workshop as part of the launch week for the institute. The seminar will address how the statutory conservation agencies and NGOs might promote wildland and rewilding as a means of delivering public goods and services such as flood mitigation, biodiversity and landscape amenity. The seminar will additionally look at the relevance of UK wildland within a European context with particular reference to EU resolutions on wilderness and large natural habitat areas. The purpose of the day will be:

- To launch WRI by exploring wide ranging potential for wildland, such as ecosystem services, recreational opportunity, natural and cultural heritage; and
- To better understand what we need to know and how to begin realizing that potential.

The seminar/workshop is open to all representatives of UK conservation and environmental agencies and organizations who have an interest in the wilder end of the landscape continuum as well as academics and non-agency professionals. The event will provide an excellent opportunity to network both within and outside normal circles, exchange ideas and information, and help shape and direct future research in the field. While some time will be given over to presentations to review the current state of play on wildland policy and provide a resume of existing projects, the bulk of the day will be based around group discussion and debate. There will be ample time for networking with colleagues and top research academics in relevant fields. One of the principal outputs from the day will be a prioritised list of key challenges and research questions in regard to wildland in Britain today. Delegates will be supported after the event with access to meeting reports, online networking facilities and follow-up events.

Cost for the day is £100 per delegate (£50 for non-governmental charities, etc.) and will include refreshments and buffet lunch.

The seminar/workshop will be followed in the evening at 6pm by a wine reception, public lecture and debate on "Wildland Britain" with talks from Roy Dennis (Highland Foundation for Wildlife) and Jay Griffiths (author of *Wild: an elemental journey*) for those who want to stay on in Leeds for the evening.

Contact: Dr Steve Carver Tel: 0113 3433318, Email: wildlandresearch@leeds.ac.uk

Further details online at: <http://www.wildlandresearch.org>





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Programme

1000 **Arrival and coffee**

1020 **Welcome and Introduction**

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- To better understand what we need to know and how to begin realizing that potential.

Questions & comments

1045 **Ice-breaker session in small groups.**

Discuss: What are the key medium-long term trends and drivers affecting wildland in Britain?

Feedback

1130 **Current state of play:** policy and evidence including the European context (tbc)

Questions & comments

1200 **Lunch - Parkinson Court**

Welcome address by Vice Chancellor, Prof Michael Arthur

Opportunity to view Tooth & Claw photographic exhibition and other displays

13.20 **Return to Thackrah Building**

13.30 **Resume of ongoing projects:** drawing out intent and implications for the wider picture (Keith Kirby)

Questions and comments

1410 **Group discussions:**

- What are the challenges to safeguarding the wildland we have and to creating more?
- What do we need to know to support this and what do we need to do and see happen?
- Can we commit to the minimum intervention that characterizes a wildland approach?
- Can we be comfortable with less certain outcomes?
- Are we involving the right people in decisions on wildland?
- Does the public support a transition to more wildland?
- Is current conservation ideology antithetic to wildland?

15.00 **Refreshments**

15.30 **Feedback session**

1600 **Plenary: panel discussion**

1630 **Close**