

Information about CIRMOUNT-sponsored AGU Session from Connie Millar's email 7/25/2008.

Colleagues,

CIRMOUNT is again sponsoring a session at the Fall AGU Conference in San Francisco (15-19 Dec 2008), entitled "Complex mountain climates create complex ecosystem responses and require complex management strategies", convened by Lisa Graumlich, Henry Diaz, Mike Dettinger, and myself. We invite your abstracts for oral and poster presentations. Details and the session description are below:

AGU Fall Meeting Website: <http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm08/>

AGU abstract submission deadline: 10 September; 2359 Universal Time (strict deadline to AGU directly)

AGU Fall meeting early registration deadline: 14 November 2008

Date of our session and final format of oral vs poster sessions are not yet available (AGU staff will inform us soon)

CIRMOUNT Session: GC (Global Change) 09: Complex Mountain Climates Create Complex Ecosystem Responses and Require Complex Management Strategies.

Mountain ranges of western North America are by nature heterogeneous physical environments, defined by great topographic, altitudinal, and substrate variations. These qualities contribute to meteorological and climatic complexity that is increasingly recognized as distinct from lowland counterparts. In paleohistoric contexts as well as under current global change, mountain systems show unique responses to global as well as regional and local climate perturbations. Complex as mountain climate variabilities are, they create and catalyze equally or more complex responses in mountain landscape systems, including hydrologic, atmospheric, soil, and ecologic structure, composition, and functioning. Under the influence of even minor changes in climate, landscape elements can exhibit episodic, reversible, opposing, threshold, gradual, or non-equilibrium responses. Completing a triad of associations, complexities in climate change and landscape response require sophisticated, case-by-case strategic and tactical approaches to resource management. The relationships of climatic, landscape, and resource-management complexities in mountain systems are not yet well understood or characterized. To the contrary, many model projections and scenario exercises assume gradual and linear changes with directional shifts in management: e.g., warming temperatures are often assumed to translate directly into upward migration of species and a shift in management frameworks. While linear responses may (or may not) result in the long term, in the short (decadal) term, highly non-linear responses are likely to occur. In this session, we invite studies that investigate complexities in modern as well as paleohistoric mountain climates and landscapes, and/or that expand the toolbox of management strategies used to address mountain landscape management in the climate-change context.

Contact me or one of the other convenors if you have questions.

-- Connie

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