

Free Public Lecture

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ALASKA'S GLACIERS?

Their Dynamic Response to Changing Climate and Other Factors

By Bruce F. Molnia, Research Geologist

- Although the oceans contain more than 95% of the Earth's water, glaciers hold 75% of the fresh water
- If all the world's glaciers melted, sea level would rise more than 250 feet
- Of Alaska's 2,000 or so large glaciers, more than 99% are now retreating or stagnating
- Photos taken decades apart at Glacier Bay reveal the dynamic evolution of the glacial landscape
- Why are Alaska's glaciers now contributing more water to raising sea level than Antarctica and other polar areas?



This photo, taken in 2003, illustrates the dramatic reduction in glacial ice that has occurred since the background photo was taken in 1973.

Thursday, December 11, 2003, 7:00 p.m.

USGS, Conference Room A, Bldg 3, Menlo Park, California

The Earth Science Information Center (Map and Publication Sales) in Building Three will remain open until 7:00 p.m. on the evening of the lecture. Map for lecture site on reverse.

For current information about the evening lecture series, call (650) 329-5000 or visit our website at <http://online.wr.usgs.gov/calendar/>