

Call for Papers and Participants: Workshop on Wetlands Management, Economics and Policy

The University of Victoria in conjunction with the University of Alberta and Ducks Unlimited will host a workshop on “Wetlands Management, Economics and Policy” at the **Hotel Grand Pacific** in beautiful Victoria, British Columbia, January 13-15, 2010. Papers from the conference will be published in the *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics* (special issue) to appear in 2011. As wetland policy discussions and changes are ongoing across Canada, the U.S. and elsewhere, the timing of such a conference is ripe for advancing the state of knowledge about the benefits of wetlands and fuelling policy discussions.

Wetland ecosystems are among the most important in the world, both from an economic and environmental perspective. Wetlands provide a large number of services, the most important of which relate to protection against flooding, water quality, assimilation of wastes, and wildlife habitat. In Europe, coastal wetlands protect residential areas against flooding from the sea, while all wetlands are important for recreation, improving water quality, and providing habitat for numerous waterfowl and other wildlife. The Prairie Pothole Region of Canada and the United States provides most of the breeding habitat for North American waterfowl. However, this region is also North America’s breadbasket and, as is true of many wetland areas, is a highly altered landscape that is primarily utilized for agricultural production. Given the focus in many countries on energy crops for ethanol and biodiesel, it will be increasingly difficult to protect wetlands and associated grasslands in such agricultural regions.

The complexity of wetland ecosystems poses challenges for management, valuation and the establishment of sound policy to conserve them. In recognition of these challenges and the important but often neglected role of wetlands in society, selected papers from the workshop will be published in a special issue of the *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics* devoted to wetlands management, economics and policy.

The organizing committee is soliciting abstracts for selected papers to be presented at the conference and considered for publication in the special issue of the CJAE. A paper abstract of no more than two typed pages (double-spaced, 2.54 cm margins, Word, RTF or PDF format) should be sent no later than 31 August 2009 to Linda Voss (wetlands@uvic.ca). Abstracts will be reviewed and notification requests for full manuscripts will be sent by 15 September 2009. Authors who decide not to submit their papers for consideration in the special issue of the CJAE may still present at the Conference. Those authors who do wish their papers to be considered for the special issue are requested to submit completed papers by 1 March 2010 so that they can go through the review process. Please note that all published papers appearing in the CJAE are levied a publication charge of \$75 per page.

More information is available from the conference website: <http://web.uvic.ca/~wetlands>