
University of Pennsylvania
Institute for Environmental Studies
Presents



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Ecological Effects of Climate Change In Northern Mongolia

Some of the most extreme temperature increases associated with global warming are expected to occur in northern Mongolia, and increases in both temperature and the length of the growing season are already apparent. The ecology of northern Mongolia is of special interest because taiga forest and steppe grasslands come together there and because the steppe vegetation is heavily grazed through the activities of nomadic herders. I will present current progress in an NSF-funded Partnership in International Research and Education project entitled “Ecological and evolutionary effects of climate change and anthropogenic influences in Mongolia”. Most of the research is being conducted at an established field site located on Lake Hövsgöl, and represents a multi-national and multi-institutional collaborative effort. The project consists of several components: 1) a survey of herder perceptions of climate change, 2) experiments examining plant community ecology responses to warming, and 3) a warming experiment to study responses of three ecotypes across the valley. In addition, several smaller projects have been undertaken by undergraduate students that have participated in the past two summer field seasons. The ultimate goal of the project is to examine the ecological, evolutionary and societal consequences of increased grazing pressures and rising temperatures in the Lake Hövsgöl region of Mongolia.

Date: April 21, 2010

Time: NOON - 1:30 pm

Place: Carolyn Hoff Lynch Auditorium

On the Penn campus: Chemistry Building
34 & Spruce Sts. (enter on 34 St)

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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NO FOOD OR DRINK PERMITTED IN THE AUDITORIUM
