



More forum information

Meteorological predictions, environmental assessments, and sustainability initiatives undertaken by EC for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games. (<http://www.vancouver2010.com/en/Sustainability>).

Species conservation, and water quality and quantity in the south Okanagan (http://www.ec.gc.ca/science/sandenov00/article2_e.html).

Species conservation and water and air quality in the Georgia Basin (http://www.pyr.ec.gc.ca/georgiabin/index_e.htm).

Use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to monitor water quality and sources of contamination to shellfish (<http://www.pyr.ec.gc.ca/EN/Shellfish/index.shtml>).

Use of space-borne synthetic aperture radars in environmental monitoring (http://ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca/radar/index_e.php#spaceborne).

Climate modelling at the Canadian Centre for Climate Modelling and Analysis. (http://www.cccma.bc.ec.gc.ca/eng_index.shtml).

Predicting impacts of climate change on hydrology, and adaptation strategies in the Okanagan Basin. (<http://www.ec.gc.ca/climate/home-e.html>).

Forum highlights science, technology

by *Ajit Krishnaswamy, Socio-economics Extension Specialist*

With 70% of Environment Canada's (EC) budget and two-thirds of their staff dedicated to science and technology, it is obvious that science is the main focus of this federal government organization. EC's recent Pacific and Yukon Science Forum celebrated this focus by providing snapshots of their major science and technology initiatives.

Held this past February in Vancouver, the forum featured **Brian Gray**, the Assistant Deputy Minister for Science & Technology. Gray presented "Environment Canada's Science Plan," a strategy for conducting science over the next 10 years. He encouraged collaboration and noted that one-third of the roughly 80 forum participants were from outside EC. He also emphasized the link between science and policy, and was encouraged that some of the

presentations included examples of how science is influencing decision makers.

The themes covered in 16 presentations were: wildlife conservation, sustainability initiatives, environmental indicators, hydrology and water quality, air quality, climate change, and weather and environmental services. The presentations focussed on the larger ecosystems of BC and the Yukon, as well as the smaller urban systems of Vancouver and the Okanagan. Presenters encouraged the need for getting users of research involved in science, which enables these users to act as extension agents of the research. Also emphasized was the need to incorporate diverse values (such as local and First Nations), and to use traditional and local knowledge.

The sidebar (left) offers links to research presented at the forum that may be of particular interest to policy makers and managers. 