

Fukushima Reactor Accident Impact on the Local Environment

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 | 10:45 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.

Lory Student Center Room 386

One of the key factors in evaluating the impact of any noxious substance on an ecosystem is how best to measure environmental impact. CSU is involved in a long-term evaluation of the impact of the Fukushima Daiichi reactor accident impact on the ecosystem, and multiple variables have been selected to study the overall health of the wildlife population. Generally, the higher trophic level organisms will concentrate radioactive materials, and therefore are utilized as sentinels to provide indication of the movement of radionuclides in an ecosystem. Wild boars are the highest trophic level animal in the Fukushima Prefecture, and the subject of current research. Freshwater and saltwater fish have been sampled as sentinel indicators of the impact of radioactivity on lakes, rivers and the local ocean. Extensive soil, water and plant samples have also been taken. A short presentation will be given on some of the current research on environmental conditions and the overall impact of the reactor accident on the ecosystem. We will discuss how we can use radioactivity to establish models of the ecosystem, as well as how best to measure the impact of radiation on an ecosystem.

Organizer and Moderator: Dr. Tom Johnson, Associate Professor, Environmental and Radiological Health Services, CSU

Panelists:

- Dr. Kenji Nanba, Professor, Fukushima University and Director of The Institute of Environmental Radioactivity (Japan)
- Amber Harshman, Ph.D. student, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (CVMB), Environmental and Radiological Health Sciences (ERHS), CSU
- Joshua Hayes, M.S. student, CVMB, ERHS, CSU
- Kelly Cunningham, DVM student, CVMB, CSU
- Maggie Rollert, DVM student, CVMB, CSU
- Dr. Sami Pederson, DVM, Ophthalmology, CSU