

**Project Summary** (150 words maximum)

This proposed project will continue the work already accomplished to date to develop a web-based interactive tool (EcologyWeb) based on WebCT to (1) enhance connectivity of the material covered among five inter-related forest and soil ecology courses in the Faculties of Forestry, Science and Agricultural Sciences (FRST 201, FRST 211, FRST 351, FRST 512, and BIOL 421) taught by Dr. Simard and co-instructors, (2) to allow for the inclusion of a greater variability of learning styles, and (3) to provide links between and access to material covered in these undergraduate and graduate courses with research carried out by other faculty members at UBC and research institutions or agencies throughout BC and Canada, and beyond.

This approach to teaching allows for connectivity and synergy between concepts, which is key to understanding forest and soil ecology. EcologyWeb creates this connectivity by integrating information technology (IT) into my teaching tools. Once completed, it will 1) present material and explain topics that are normally difficult for undergraduate students to integrate, 2) develop interactive learning components, and 3) serve as both an in-class and off-campus resource and review tool. It will be used to support the lecture and lab-based teaching methods by providing students with graphical, interactive web-based information to help them make connections among a large number of concepts, and relate them to various ecosystem management issues.

Specifically, the project will build upon the current lecture and lab material in the five courses by including the following resources: (1) written course resource material in a variety of formats, (2) concept maps for each lecture, and (3) visual tools such as illustrations, and animations. This will expand beyond the traditional, linear, text-based presentation model to a broader spectrum of learning devices.

This project meets the mandates of TLEF and Trek 2010.