

Parks and Protected Areas: What is being Conserved and for Whom?

This talk will focus on a brief history of park development in Canada which will overview the impacts on ecosystems and local peoples. For Indigenous communities, the histories of parks and protected areas have often facilitated displacement, cultural loss and food insecurity. In the 21st century, many Indigenous peoples are using new park designations and related legal frameworks to protect their traditional lands, their key ecosystems, and the food sources that they support. Conflict over who makes land use decisions is common between multiple stakeholders, such as natural resource extraction and tourism industries, Indigenous communities, as well as numerous levels of government. To demonstrate the complexity of these issues and possible ways forward to protect fish and critical watersheds, examples will be drawn from Western Canada and Māori land-use management in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Courtney Mason.

Associate Professor,

Canada Research Chair,

Rural Livelihoods and Sustainable Communities,

Thompson Rivers University