

*Free Public Lecture*

# **Ebola: Wildlife Conservation and a Deadly Disease**



**Dr. Sarah Olson**

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Ebola hemorrhagic fever (EHF) is believed to be an important driver of great ape population decline. Since it was first recognized in 1976, it has emerged again and again in central Africa with high human and ape mortality rates. Mortality rates during EHF outbreaks in humans and apes have reached 90 and 95% respectively. The apes most threatened by EHF are western lowland gorillas, currently listed as critically endangered by the IUCN and predominantly found in Gabon, the Republic of Congo, and Cameroon. Despite the magnitude of mortality events and the conservation risk to great apes very little is known about how Ebola virus circulates in the wild. This lecture will examine the ecology of Ebola virus, explore its impact on great ape populations, and discuss some of the latest innovations in Ebola research.

*Sarah received a joint PhD in Population Health and Environment & Resources from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her research interest focuses on the intersection of wildlife, human, and environmental health. She is currently based at the WCS-Nanaimo office located on the VIU campus.*

**Wednesday, March 28, 2012**

**7:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Vancouver Island University, Building 356, Room 109

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