GCSC Seminar Series

March 21, 2017
4:00-5:00 PM

Lance Gunderson
Department of Environmental Science, Emory University
"Adaptation and Transformation in Managed Riparian and Wetland Systems across the US."

210 ASB
(Aline Skaggs Building)

ALL ARE WELCOME

Refreshments & meet the speaker at 3:45
Abstract

Recent assessments by legal, social and ecological scholars of six regional scale water systems (Columbia River, Klamath River, Middle Rio Grande River, Central Platte River, Anacostia River and the Everglades wetlands) all suggest a common historical pattern of crisis, adaptation and transformation. All systems went through development phases that created infrastructure and policies aimed at controlling the water to meet a set of human water supply needs. Such successful control led to a decline in ecological resilience, resulting in a series of environmental surprises. Such crises were followed by lurches in adaptation and learning, in which new institutional and governance structures emerged. Such adaptive forms of governance appear to be a robust way of integrating science, law and policy to confront the uncertainties of climate change.

Bio

Lance Gunderson is a systems ecologist who is interested in how people understand, assess, and manage large-scale ecosystems of people and nature. He worked as a research ecologist for National Audubon Society (1977-78), as a botanist for the US National Park Service in south Florida (1979-89), and as a research scientist at the University of Florida (1992-98). He was the founding chair of the Department of Environmental Studies at Emory University and is a Professor in that department. He is Co-Editor in Chief of Ecology and Society. He has been involved in environmental assessment and management of large-scale ecosystems, including the Everglades, Florida Bay, Upper Mississippi River Basin, and the Grand Canyon/Colorado River.