

Project Update: August 2011

Fieldwork. During last summer, large extensions of streams and riparian *Nothofagus antarctica* forests affected by beaver were examined, walking several km. We visited five private ranches in the central part of Tierra del Fuego to select sampling sites. The interaction with the owners has been very good, many of them know the beaver movements into their lands. This information is so useful, for example to know the time of abandonment of some dams, and therefore the recovery time could have such sites.



After field inspections, we decided to evaluate two different forest conditions in our study: i) riparian forests (the stream/river runs through the forest, so the water is directly in contact with the forest matrix); and ii) forest-grassland matrix (the stream is embedded in a matrix of grassland, and then the forest is separated by several metres from the water). The study grew more interesting! Since we expect that the response of *Nothofagus* seedlings will not be the same in both conditions.

This summer we are going to be mainly focused on *N. antarctica* regeneration patterns on abandoned sites, the microhabitat of those sites that benefit the seedling installation, and we will determine the time of site abandonment, as closely as possible. We are looking for volunteers for the next summer (January-February 2012)! We expect enthusiastic students, wanting to share our experience and learn methods of forest sampling. One of the main goals is that one of them performs her/his undergraduate thesis with the data obtained.

Workshop. In May 2011, a workshop was organised in the Austral Research Center (CADIC-CONICET) at Ushuaia city (Tierra del Fuego), to present two ongoing projects related to beaver invasion and their effect on sub-Antarctic landscape. The workshop was co-organized with Alejandro Pietrek, who works in the same region (http://www.ruffordsmallgrants.org/rsg/projects/alejandro_pietrek). The aims were to present both projects and the preliminary results, know the actors' opinions involved in the study of beaver invasion. Local researchers, students, representatives of provincial and municipal governments participated at that time.

