



## **Physics Colloquium**

**Friday September 28th , 2012  
4:10 – 5:00 pm, EPS108**

**"Institute on Ecosystems and two large NSF-funded initiatives:  
Challenges and opportunities"**

**Cathy Whitlock,  
MSU Director, Montana Institute on Ecosystems & Professor of  
Earth Sciences**

### **Abstract:**

Dr. Whitlock will discuss the new Institute on Ecosystems and some of the science activities underway. These activities include tackling the science objectives of the Montana EPSCoR grant, which focuses on the physical and biotic processes that govern ecosystem structure and function, as well as the vulnerability of Montana's ecosystems to climate change. Also, underway is a large multi-university international project, WildFIRE PIRE, which examines the role of climate and land-use change on past, present and future fire regimes. This project engages faculty, post-docs, graduate students, and undergrads from the US, New Zealand, and Australia to address a major challenge of earth system science.

### **Host:**

Rufus Cone

**Refreshments 3:45 p.m.  
EPS 2nd Floor Atrium**