



Jon Keeley/USGS

## Housing Arrangement and Location Determine Structure Losses in Southern California Fires

Certain housing factors, such as being located in areas with a history of frequent fire or being surrounded by wildland vegetation, can increase the risk of structure loss in the event of wildfires, according to a study out of WERC's [Southern California Wild-fire Risk Scenario Project](#). "A key aspect of fire risk has been missing from the discussion — rethinking where we put homes in the first place," says study coauthor [Jon Keeley](#). "This study provides evidence for a completely new way to think about fire risk management." Researchers also addressed the need for maps in the new study, by testing traditional fire hazard maps against maps that account for housing patterns.

<http://usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3245>

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/socalfirerisk>

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4719>

### NEW JOURNAL ARTICLES

Herring, G, [JT Ackerman](#), [MP Herzog](#). 2012. **Mercury exposure may suppress baseline corticosterone levels in juvenile birds.** *Environmental Science & Technology* 46: 6339-6346. doi: 10.1021/es300668c

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4728>

Ringelman, KM, JM Eadie, [JT Ackerman](#). 2012. **Density-dependent nest predation in waterfowl: the relative importance of nest density versus nest dispersion.** *Oecologia* 169(3): 695-702. doi: 10.1007/s00442-011-2228-1.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4731>

Syphard, AD, [JE Keeley](#), A Bar Massada, TJ Brennan, VC Radeloff. **Housing arrangement and location determine the likelihood of housing loss due to wildfire.** *PLoS ONE* 7(3): e33954. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0033954

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4719>

### EVENTS

**June 1 - July 7, 2012 (Santa Cruz, CA)**

The R. Blitzer Gallery is hosting the **earth/science/art** exhibit, featuring 16 collaborations between local artists and USGS marine scientists, including WERC seabird scientist [Josh Adams](#).

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=112>

**June 05, 2012 (Webinar)** WERC scientist

[Karen Thorne](#) gave the June webinar for the **California Landscape Conservation Cooperative**. Thorne discussed research by [John Takekawa](#) and colleagues on **fine-scale mapping and forecasting of sea level rise impacts** on marshes. A recording of the talk is available online.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=109>

**June 14, 2012 (Santa Cruz, CA)**

WERC seabird scientist [Josh Adams](#) was among the guest panelists at the **earth/science/art** public event, where artists and scientists discussed their collaborations.

<http://www.earthscienceartsc.com/>

**June 25-27, 2012 (Los Angeles, CA)**

WERC scientist [Jon Keeley](#) will be among the panelists at the Tuesday working group sessions at **The Mediterranean City conference** on climate change adaptation.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=110>

**July 15-18, 2012 (Oakland, CA)**

The **2012 SCB North America Congress for Conservation Biology** will include several presentations and tours featuring WERC scientists, including [Erin Boydston](#), [John Takekawa](#) and [Laura Valoppi](#). Interior Assistant Secretary [Anne Castle](#) will be a plenary speaker.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=93>

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