

AWARDS

The USGS John Wesley Powell Center for Analysis and Synthesis announced its 2013 Working Group Awards recently. Among the funded researchers is **Matt Brooks**, who will collaborate with USGS, University of California and University of Colorado colleagues to examine **shifts in plant species diversity along nitrogen deposition gradients**.
<http://powellcenter.usgs.gov/>

EVENTS

October 1-4, 2012 (Estes Park, CO)

Phil van Mantgem will moderate a session at the **MtnClim2012 meeting** of montane ecology and climate change issues. **Adrian Das** will also discuss the pattern of tree mortality at various scales.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=125>

October 2, 2012 (Sacramento, CA)

Peter Coates will explain WERC research on greater sage-grouse in Nevada as part of the **CSU Sacramento Fall Ecology Colloquium**, co-hosted by WERC and the USGS California Water Science Center.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=118>

October 7, 2012 (Los Angeles, CA)

Adam Backlin, **Carlton Rochester**, **Mark Canfield** and **Robert Fisher** will speak to kids and families and present activities at the **Reptile and Amphibian Appreciation Day (RAAD)** at the **Los Angeles County Natural History Museum**.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=124>

October 16-18, 2012 (Sacramento, CA)

USGS Director **Marcia McNutt** will be a plenary speaker at the **7th Biennial Bay-Delta Conference**, which also will feature presentations by many WERC scientists on South Bay salt pond restoration, sea level rise and San Francisco Bay ecology.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=126>

WERC on Sage-Grouse, Genetics, Waterfowl on Deck at The Wildlife Society 2012 Meeting

The Wildlife Society's 2012 Conference program lists close to 60 presentations and at least 26 posters from USGS and Cooperative Research Unit scientists, as well as a USGS exhibit booth. WERC submissions to the Portland, Oregon, conference include research by: **Pete Coates**, **Arriana Brand**, **Rob Klinger**, **Dustin Wood**, **Joseph Fleskes**, **Vivian Thuy-Vy Bui**, **Michael Casazza**, **Cory Overton**, **Glenn Wylie**, **Brian Halstead**, **Diego Johnson** and **Chris Lowrey**. WERC research topics slated for discussion include greater sage-grouse ecology, waterfowl migration and habitat ecology, conservation genetics, sea level rise and salt marshes, giant gartersnakes, pronghorn reproduction and sky island ecology. TWS 2012 will take place October 13-17.

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=86>

<http://bit.ly/usgstws2012schedule> (Google Calendar link)

<http://bit.ly/usgstws2012> (.ics file for smartphone/desktop calendars)

NEW JOURNAL ARTICLES

Behrens, MD, **KD Lafferty**. 2012. **Geographic variation in the diet of opaleye (*Girella nigricans*) with respect to temperature and habitat**. *PLoS ONE* 7(9): e45901. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0045901
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4788>

Havens, K, CL Jolls, JE Marik, P. Vitt, **AK McEachern**, D Kind. 2012. **Effects of a non-native biocontrol weevil, *Larinus planus*, and other emerging threats on populations of the federally threatened Pitcher's thistle, *Cirsium pitcheri***. *Biological Conservation* 155: 202-211. doi: 10.1016/j.biocon.2012.06.010
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4787>

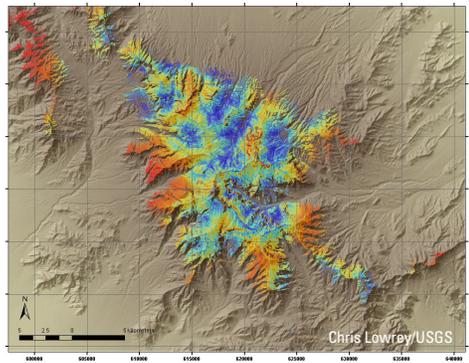
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Chris Lowrey/USGS

Chipmunk Turf Wars and the Sky Islands of Nevada

They sing, they solve mysteries, and their squeaky voices might be one cause of our global shortage in helium. Chipmunks are certainly talented creatures — at least in the fictional world of cartoons and movies. But what are real chipmunks like, and what roles do they play in the natural ecosystem? **Chris Lowrey**, who works with **Kathy Longshore** at the WERC **Las Vegas Field Station**, is featured in this latest series of WERC blogposts. Lowrey provides some biology trivia on these popular rodents, and explains his field surveys examining how climate change could be forcing two species of chipmunks into conflict in the Spring Range of Nevada — one of the “sky islands” in the Basin and Range Province. <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/outreach.aspx?RecordID=154>
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/outreach.aspx?RecordID=153>



EVENTS (CONT'D)

October 16, 2012 (Sacramento, CA)
Mark Ricca will talk about his research on nonnative caribou impacts on Alaskan island ecosystems at this session of **CSU Sacramento's Fall Ecology Colloquium**. <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=119>

IN THE NEWS

Forest Fires: Burn out (*Nature*)
Reporter **Michelle Nijhuis** interviews USGS scientist **Craig Allen** and WERC scientist **Nate Stephenson** on the conversion of forest ecosystems due to climate change and altered fire regimes. <http://www.nature.com/news/forest-fires-burn-out-1.11424>

Learning Comes Alive and Supports Habitat Restoration (*SC Sentinel*)
Reporter **Jackie Pascoe** profiles native plant restoration projects along Santa Cruz coastal bluffs, which introduces students and the public to restoration concepts. **Josh Adams** is among the research and outreach volunteers on the project. http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/santacruz/ci_21592985

Did Climate Change Spur Plants to Migrate Uphill? (*LiveScience*)
Reporter **Wynne Parry** examines a study on climate change impacts in California's Santa Rosa Mountains, where research by **Jon Keeley** and colleagues offer fire as an alternative explanation to the upslope shift in a plant species' distribution. <http://www.livescience.com/22239-plant-shift-climate-debate.html>