

Research Support for BLM

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Contact:
A. Keith Miles

Email:
keith_miles@usgs.gov

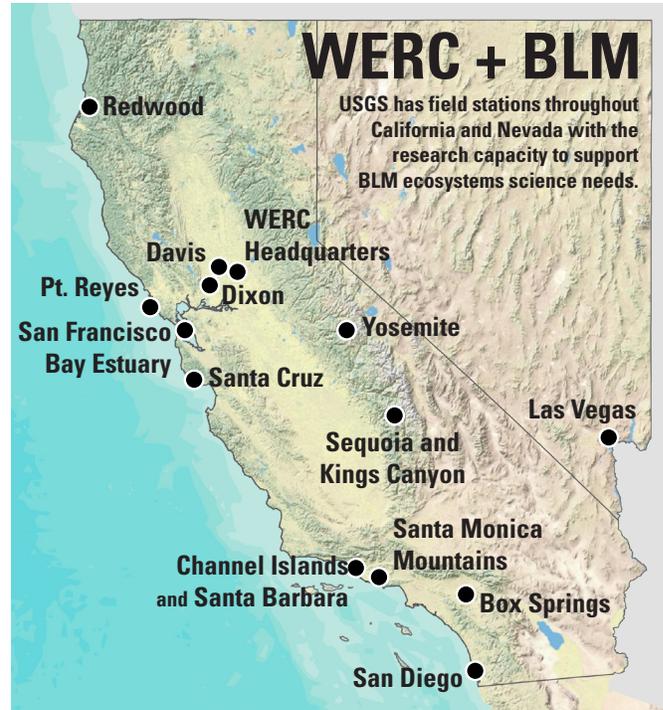
Phone:
916-278-9572

U.S. Geological Survey | Western Ecological Research Center | 3020 State University Dr. East, Suite 3006, Sacramento, CA 95819

The **Western Ecological Research Center (WERC)** is a USGS science center serving California, Nevada and the greater Pacific Southwest — the most ecologically diverse geographic region in the U.S. and home to more than 15 million acres of public lands managed by the **U.S. Bureau of Land Management**.

WERC has a legacy of collaborating on BLM’s mission to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. We match the expertise of WERC researchers with management questions of BLM projects throughout California and Nevada, conducting independent surveys and analysis that help inform BLM planning and efforts.

These efforts are part of the USGS mission to provide sound science to federal, state and local agencies, on topics from climate change to land use impacts, from contaminants to invasives. We invite partnerships with refuge managers and regional offices to deliver science-based solutions for our changing world.



WERC Research Highlights

- Decades of **desert tortoise** studies on BLM lands in California, Nevada and Arizona, including multi-year monitoring of tortoises translocated from Fort Irwin; responses to invasive plants, land development and wildfire; disease epidemiology and contaminant exposure; nutritional availability. (Box Springs/Las Vegas FS)
- More than 10 years of **greater sage-grouse** studies in the Bi-State Area of Nevada and California, using telemetry to develop spatially explicit habitat suitability models; analyzing vital rates and population viability; identifying conifer removal areas; and Science Advisor to Bi-State Technical Committee. (Dixon FS)
- Assessing habitat and species responses to **solar energy developments** on BLM lands, using landscape GIS and population genetics to map potential impacts of solar energy corridors to desert tortoise genetic diversity and habitat connectivity. (Las Vegas/San Diego FS)
- Assessing habitat and species responses to **wind energy corridors** on BLM lands, evaluating the effects of wind turbine and transmission line development on sage-grouse population vital rates and movement patterns within areas of the Great Basin. (Dixon FS)
- Integrating our knowledge of **desert fires and invasive species** to advise habitat restoration on BLM lands, such as evaluating effectiveness of aerial reseeding and other native plants restoration techniques; tracking post-fire landscape responses; controlling invasive plants in off-road use recreation areas. (Las Vegas/Yosemite FS)
- Developing habitat models for **pronghorn** and **burrowing owls** and habitat management plans for **desert bighorn sheep** on BLM lands. (Las Vegas FS)
- Investigating **mercury contamination** linked to abandoned mines on BLM land in CA watersheds. (Dixon FS)
- Establishing **forest monitoring plots** on BLM land to document Klamath region changes. (Redwood FS)

Resources for BLM Managers

WERC PUBLICATION BRIEFS

Academic findings published by WERC scientists delivered as concise, one-page briefings with management implications, written especially for resource managers. Full list online:

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/PublicationBriefs.aspx>

WERC RESOURCE MANAGERS PORTAL

Search our Products Database and look up field stations:

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/OutreachForResourceManagers.aspx>

WERC EVENTS LISTING

Interact directly with WERC scientists at upcoming workshops and conferences. Browse the calendar online:

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Events.aspx>

To propose collaborations, projects and workshop invitations, or to inquire about specific research findings and products, please contact the lead scientist or field station directly.

BLM Lands with Current or Past WERC Studies

- Bi-State Area of Nevada and Eastern CA (Dixon FS)
- Carrizo Plain National Monument (Las Vegas FS)
- Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (Redwood FS)
- Coachella Valley Preserve (San Diego FS)
- Desert Tortoise Natural Area (Box Springs FS)
- Dove Springs OHV Open Area (Yosemite FS)
- Proposed Gold Butte NCA (Las Vegas FS)
- Parashant National Monument (Las Vegas FS)
- Headwaters Forest Reserve (Redwood FS)
- Jawbone-Butterbredt Area of Critical Environmental Concern (Box Springs FS)
- Pilot Knob Allotment (Yosemite FS)
- Red Rock Canyon NCA (Las Vegas FS)
- Salton Sea Naval Test Base (San Diego FS)
- Sloan Canyon National Recreational Area (Las Vegas FS)
- Superior-Cronese Desert Wildlife Management Area (Box Springs FS)

WERC Lead Scientists and Field Stations

Box Springs Field Station

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

Kristin H. Berry, kristin_berry@usgs.gov

Channel Islands/Santa Barbara Field Station

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

Kevin D. Lafferty, klafferty@usgs.gov

Kathryn McEachern, kathryn_mceachern@usgs.gov

Davis Field Station

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

Josh T. Ackerman, jackerman@usgs.gov

Dixon Field Station

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

Michael L. Casazza, mike_casazza@usgs.gov

Joseph P. Fleskes, joe_fleskes@usgs.gov

Roger L. Hothem, roger_hothem@usgs.gov

Las Vegas Field Station

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

Lesley A. Defalco, ldefalco@usgs.gov

Todd C. Esque, todd_esque@usgs.gov

Kenneth E. Nussear, knussear@usgs.gov

Kathy Longshore, longshore@usgs.gov

Point Reyes Field Station

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

Gary M. Fellers, gary_fellers@usgs.gov

Redwoods Field Station

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

Mary Ann Madej, mary_ann_madej@usgs.gov

Phillip van Mantgem, pvanmantgem@usgs.gov

San Diego Field Station

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

Robert N. Fisher, rfisher@usgs.gov

Barbara E. Kus, barbara_kus@usgs.gov

Amy Vandergast, avandergast@usgs.gov

San Francisco Bay Estuary Field Station

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

John Y. Takekawa, john_takekawa@usgs.gov

Santa Cruz Field Station

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

Josh Adams, josh_adams@usgs.gov

M. Tim Tinker, ttinker@usgs.gov

Santa Monica Mountains Field Station

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

Erin E. Boydston, eboydston@usgs.gov

Sequoia and Kings Canyon Field Station

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

Jon E. Keeley, jon_keeley@usgs.gov

Nathan L. Stephenson, nstephenson@usgs.gov

South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project

<http://www.southbayrestoration.org>

Laura M. Valoppi, laura_valoppi@usgs.gov

Yosemite Field Station

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

Matthew L. Brooks, mlbrooks@usgs.gov