



Nate Stephenson/USGS

## Forests Feeling the Heat from Climate Change

USGS recognized World Forestry Day on March 21, 2012, with a blogpost highlighting the research of WERC scientists [Phil van Mantgem](#), [Nate Stephenson](#) and the [USGS Western Mountain Initiative](#). Stephenson and van Mantgem's research have described the mortality of old-growth forests in the Western U.S., as well as establish [forest monitoring projects](#) to study climate change effects in [western U.S. national parks](#), including Sequoia, Redwood, Lassen Volcanic, and Crater Lake National Park. [http://www.usgs.gov/blogs/features/usgs\\_science\\_pick/many-forests-feeling-the-heat-from-climate-change](http://www.usgs.gov/blogs/features/usgs_science_pick/many-forests-feeling-the-heat-from-climate-change)

## NEW JOURNAL ARTICLES

Franks, SE, DR Norris, TK Kyser, G Fernández, B Schwarz, R Carmona, MA Colwell, JC Sandoval, A Dondua, HR Gates, B Haase, DJ Hodkinson, A Jiménez, RB Lanctot, B Ortego, BK Sandercock, F Sanders, [JY Takekawa](#), N Warnock, RC Ydenberg, DB Lank. 2012. **Range-wide patterns of migratory connectivity in the western sandpiper *Calidris mauri***. *Journal of Avian Biology*. doi: 10.1111/j.1600-048X.2012.05573.x <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4682>

[Tinker, MT](#), PR Guimarães Jr, M Novak, FMD Marquitti, JL Bodkin, M Staedler, G Bentall, JA Estes. 2012. **Structure and mechanism of diet specialisation: testing models of individual variation in resource use with sea otters**. *Ecology Letters*. doi: 10.1111/j.1461-0248.2012.01760.x <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4683>

Welch, AJ, RC Fleischer, HF James, AE Wiley, PH Ostrom, [J Adams](#), F Duvall, N Holmes, D Hu, J Penniman, KA Swindle. 2012. **Population divergence and gene flow in an endangered and highly mobile seabird**. *Heredity*. doi: 10.1038/hdy.2012.7 <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4593>

## EVENTS

**March 22, 2012 (Menlo Park, CA)** [Tom Suchanek](#) gave this month's USGS Menlo Park Public Lecture and Webcast, discussing the impacts of climate change on California. **The webcast is archived here:** <http://online.wr.usgs.gov/calendar/2012.html>

**March 29, 2012 (Arcata, CA)** [Mary Ann Madej](#) presented the lecture "Indicators of Climate Change in North Coastal California" at **Humboldt State University**. <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=102>

**April 3-5, 2012 (Menlo Park, CA)** WERC scientists [Kathryn McEachern](#) and [Mary Ann Madej](#) will be panelists discussing resource management needs at the first-ever **Pacific Coastal Fog Workshop**, hosted by the USGS Western Geographic Science Center. <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=101>

**April 20-23, 2012 (Zzyzx, CA)** WERC scientist [Kristin Berry](#) will present at the **26th annual Desert Symposium**, on the populations of the desert tortoises *Gopherus agassizii* and *G. morafkai*. <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=100>

## IN THE NEWS

**While Few Noticed, Hawaiian Lizard Went Extinct (*Mother Jones*)** reports on [Robert Fisher's](#) recent *Oryx* paper describing the cryptic extinction of the skink *Emoia impar* from the Hawaiian Islands. The news was also covered by Associated Press and local Hawaii media outlets. <http://motherjones.com/blue-marble/2012/03/hawaiian-lizard-declared-extinct> <http://www.mauinews.com/page/content.detail/id/559337/> <http://www.kitv.com/news/30727083/detail.html> [http://www.staradvertiser.com/newspremium/20120321\\_Bluetailed\\_skink\\_vanishes\\_from\\_its\\_habitat\\_in\\_Hawaii.html](http://www.staradvertiser.com/newspremium/20120321_Bluetailed_skink_vanishes_from_its_habitat_in_Hawaii.html)

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## NEW BOOK CHAPTERS

Fleskes, JP. Ch. 25: **Wetlands of the Central Valley and Klamath Basin**. in Batzer, DP, AH Baldwin (editors). **Wetland Habitats of North America**. University of California Press. 2012. ISBN: 9780520271647  
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4681>

## NEW PRODUCTS FROM RETIRED RESEARCHERS

Larson, S, R Jameson, M Etnier, T Jones, R Hall. 2012. **Genetic diversity and population parameters of sea otters, *Enhydra lutris*, before fur trade extirpation from 1741-1911**. *PLoS ONE* 7(3): e32205. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0032205

## NEW PRESS RELEASES

### Another Vertebrate Species Reported Extinct from the Hawaiian Islands

A species of lizard has been determined extinct from the Hawaiian Islands: the copper striped blue-tailed skink (*Emoia impar*). But the extinction likely happened decades ago, says **Robert Fisher**, who explains the term “cryptic extinction” and discusses how the skink’s example might guide ecologists on improved monitoring of island species.

<http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3145>  
<http://www2.cnrs.fr/presse/communique/2527.htm>

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## OUTREACH NEWS

**Keith Miles**, **Liz Bowen**, **Anne Meckstroth** and **Ben Young Landis** held an outreach program in Sacramento on March 15. Miles and colleagues spoke to a class of 6th graders at **Bret Harte Elementary School** educating students about sea otters as indicators of coastal health, and raising awareness of scientific pursuits as career options regardless of gender and ethnicity. The curriculum was created by the **USGS Alaska Science Center** as part of a USGS Diversity Council project and the **DOI Pacific Nearshore Project**.

On April 7, **Kristin Berry** will lead a workshop at the **Desert Tortoise Natural Area** (California City, CA), on how to identify perennial plant species in a dry year, when the plants are not flowering and leaves are limited. This is a joint USGS and Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee (DTPC) workshop, and the training audience will include DTPC employees, volunteers and the general public.

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