



Heather Schneider/USGS



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Stacie Hathaway/USGS

EVENTS

January 16, 2013 (webinar)

John Takekawa will present a **USFWS webinar** on his research modeling the effects of sea level rise and extreme events on coastal habitats and their wildlife.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=145>

January 22, 2013 (Sacramento, CA)

WERC will host conservation biologist **M. Firoy Ahmed** from India. Ahmed will give a guest lecture on his research on tiger conservation and chelonian studies in the Assam state of northeastern India.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=143>

January 30, 2013 (Sacramento, CA)

Many WERC scientists will present at **The Wildlife Society's Western Section Annual Meeting**, on topics including bird use of salt ponds, greater sage-grouse, as well as climate change and American pika.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=142>

IN THE NEWS

In Arid West, Cheatgrass Turns Fires Into Infernos (National Public Radio)

Reporter Christopher Joyce interviews **Matt Brooks** on the impact of invasive cheatgrass on Great Basin habitats and wildfire regimes.
<http://www.npr.org/2012/12/05/166574589/in-arid-west-cheatgrass-turns-fires-into-infernos>

Climate Change to Claim San Francisco Marshes (Yahoo! News/LiveScience)

Reporter Becky Oskin interviews **Karen Thorne** about her research forecasting sea level rise impacts over the next 100 years to vegetative habitats at 12 tidal marshes in San Francisco Bay, underscoring the importance of restoration projects that increase ecosystem resilience ahead of climate changes.
<http://news.yahoo.com/climate-change-claim-san-francisco-marshes-222740955.html>

Learn Nature Trivia with #FloraFaunaFridays

“Flora and Fauna Fridays” is a new regular feature on the WERC Outreach Blog. With the help of WERC scientists, we’ll discover and share the amazing life history of the plant and wildlife biodiversity of the Pacific West, one species at a time. Here are some of our recent posts:

Deck the Halls with Desert Holly

Heather Schneider introduces the desert holly (*Atriplex hymenelytra*), a saltbush species native to the U.S./Mexico deserts.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/outreach.aspx?RecordID=164>

The Fuzz Over the Barstow Woolly Sunflower

Heather Schneider wraps another Flora and Fauna Friday blogpost with a discussion of the rare Barstow woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum mohavense*).
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/outreach.aspx?RecordID=165>

A Lov-e-ly Bunch of Coconut Crabs

Stacie Hathaway provides this week’s pinch of wildlife science, with an introduction to the giant coconut crab (*Birgus latro*) of the Indo-Pacific.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/outreach.aspx?RecordID=166>

This Biweekly Update is produced as a service to USGS/WERC staff, colleagues, partners and the interested public. To add your email address to the mailing list or to report errors/suggestions, please contact blandis@usgs.gov. Download this issue at <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/outreach.aspx>.

NEW JOURNAL ARTICLES

Adams, J, C MacLeod, RM Suryan, KD Hyrenbach, JT Harvey. 2012. **Summer-time use of west coast US National Marine Sanctuaries by migrating sooty shearwaters (*Puffinus griseus*).** *Biological Conservation* doi: 10.1016/j.biocon.2011.12.032 <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4587>

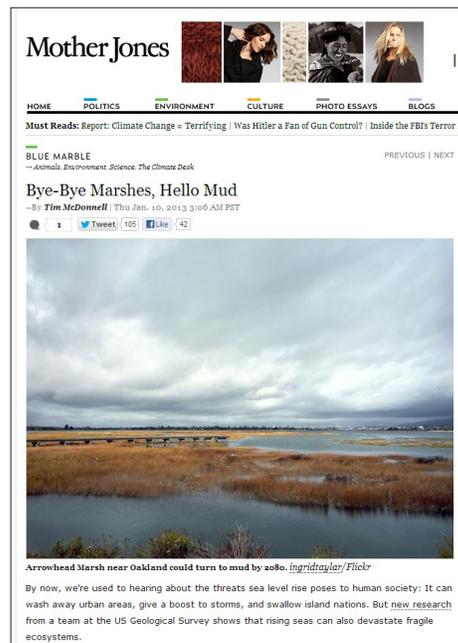
Tracey, JA, J Zhu, E Boydston, L Lyren, RN Fisher, KR Crooks. In press. **Mapping behavioral landscapes for animal movement: A finite mixture modeling approach.** *Ecological Applications*. doi: 10.1890/12-0687.1 <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4846>

IN THE NEWS (CONT'D)

Bye-Bye Marshes, Hello Mud

(*Mother Jones Online*)

Reporter Tim McDonnell interviews **John Takekawa** about the San Francisco Bay sea level rise modeling research and its implications on threatened wildlife. <http://www.motherjones.com/blue-marble/2013/01/san-francisco-marshes-going-going-gone>



The screenshot shows the Mother Jones website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with categories: HOME, POLITICS, ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE, PHOTO ESSAYS, and BLOGS. Below this is a 'Must Reads' section with links to 'Report: Climate Change = Terrifying', 'Was Hitler a Fan of Gun Control?', and 'Inside the FBI's Terror F...'. The main article is titled 'Bye-Bye Marshes, Hello Mud' by Tim McDonnell, dated Thursday, January 10, 2013, 3:06 AM PST. It features a large photograph of a marshland under a cloudy sky. Below the photo is a caption: 'Arrowhead Marsh near Oakland could turn to mud by 2080. Ingrid Taylor/Flickr'. The article text begins with 'By now, we're used to hearing about the threats sea level rise poses to human society: It can wash away urban areas, give a boost to storms, and swallow island nations. But new research from a team at the US Geological Survey shows that rising seas can also devastate fragile ecosystems.'

Sea Otters Free to Roam Down California Coast (AAAS)

Mary Bates and Katherine Ralls discuss the new USFWS ruling ending the southern sea otter translocation program in southern California, and mention **Tim Tinker's** research program on tracking sea otter population trends.

<http://membercentral.aaas.org/blogs/qualia/sea-otters-free-roam-down-california-coast>
