USGS science for a changing world

USGS Western Ecological Research Center

Biweekly Update

May 16-31, 2013 | Issues 2.09 | www.werc.usgs.gov

Amphibian Specialist Gary Fellers Retires

One of the founding biologists of the USGS National Amphibian Research and Monitoring Initiative (ARMI) and a renowned expert on California amphibians and bats, WERC scientist and principal investigator Gary Fellers has retired from the agency. "Gary has been a leading natural historian for many of California's scenic lands, in the Sierra Nevada and in particular the Point Reyes National Seashore, his longtime base," says Steve Schwarzbach, WERC center director. "Gary has worked at Point Reyes for 30 years on a variety of wildlife issues. His tremendous natural history knowledge of the park has been an invaluable asset to the National Park Service and to USGS." Fellers' institutional knowledge on the monitoring needs to study amphibian decline was among the driving forces leading to the creation of the USGS ARMI program, and he is a coauthor on the recent ARMI study confirming the decline of amphibians throughout the United States (see back page).
http://www.werc.usgs.gov/outreach.aspx?RecordID=182
http://www.werc.usgs.gov/fellers

NEW JOURNAL ARTICLES

Herring, G, CA Eagles-Smith, JT Ackerman, DE Gawlik, JM Beerens. 2013. **Landscape factors and hydrology influence mercury concentrations in wading birds breeding in the Florida Everglades, USA.** *Science of The Total Environment* 458-460: 637-646. doi: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2013.04.036
http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4906

Halstead, BJ, GD Wylie, ML Casazza. 2013. **Efficacy of trap modifications for increasing capture rates of aquatic snakes in floating aquatic funnel traps.** *Herpetological Conservation and Biology* 81(1): 65-74.
http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4909

AWARDS

The **California Transportation Foundation** announced the winners of its 24th annual Transportation Awards on **May 23, 2013**. The winner for Sustainable Environmental Enhancement Project of the Year is the **SR 330 Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog Recovery Project**, shared by Caltrans, San Bernadino National Forest, USFWS, San Diego Zoo, Cal Fish and Wildlife, along with Adam Backlin, Robert Fisher and colleagues at WERC.
http://www.transportationfoundation.org/transportation-awards/

EVENTS

June 7, 2013 (Hoopa, CA)
Mary Ann Madej will be giving a talk and demo on measuring stream temperatures for students at the **11th Annual Klamath-Trinity Fish Fair**. Members of the Yurok, Hoopa, and Karuk tribes will be attending.
http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=160

June 11, 2013 (Webinar)
Rob Klinger will take part in the **USGS National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center** lecture series. Klinger will examine assumptions that climate warming will have negative effects across the board for alpine mammal species in the Sierra Nevada, pointing out complexities.
http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=159

July 16, 2013 (Menlo Park, CA)
The USGS Menlo Park Campus will again host the biennial **Salt Ponds Science Symposium**, showcasing the efforts and progress updates of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. This year also marks the 10th anniversary of the project's inception and continued colloboration among public and private institutions.
http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=156

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.


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Alan Cressler/USGS


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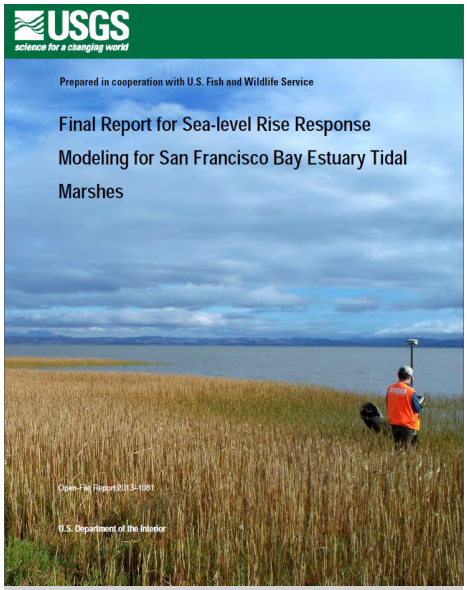
More Silent Springs: New Study Confirms Amphibian Decline Trends in U.S.

Frogs, toads, salamanders and other amphibians are less commonly found today in the United States than they were nine years ago, according to a new study from the USGS Amphibian Research and Monitoring Initiative (ARMI), including coauthors Gary Fellers and Robert Fisher. "This is our first good look at long-term trends across the board for amphibian species in the U.S.," says Fisher. "We looked at data for 48 species at 34 sites across the country from nine years and counting, and unfortunately this is the trend the data revealed — even for areas like national parks and national wildlife refuges, and for species we usually consider as stable and widespread."
http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4905
http://www.werc.usgs.gov/outreach.aspx?RecordID=181
http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3597
http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.533078050071516.1073741830.102635589782433
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vw28GIsefSM

Media Mentions:
http://www.mydesert.com/article/20130522/NEWS07/305220011
http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_23301388
http://www.washingtonpost.com/2013/05/22/459c1c9e-c2f3-11e2-914f-a7aba60512a7_story.html



New Report: SF Bay Could Lose Marshes to Sea Level Rise

San Francisco Bay could lose even more marshes by the year 2100 due to sea level rise. These are the implications of a new Open File Report authored by John Takekawa, Karen Thorne, Kevin Buffington, Cory Overton, Mike Casazza, and the USGS California Water Science Center. The team painstakingly surveyed 12 bay marshes using RTK GPS, mapping both marsh topography and plant distribution — a previously unavailable dataset from which this marsh inundation model was created.
http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2013/1081/
http://www.werc.usgs.gov/SFBaySLR

Media Mentions:
http://www.usgs.gov/blogs/features/usgs_top_story/san-francisco-bay-could-lose-marshes-to-sea-level-rise-by-2100-2/

http://blogs.kqed.org/science/2013/05/30/bay-area-wetlands-slowly-drowning-as-seas-rise/

NEW TECHNICAL REPORTS

Ackerman, JT, M Marvin-DiPasquale, D Slotton, CA Eagles-Smith, MP Herzog, A Hartman, JL Agee, S Ayers. 2013. **The South Bay mercury project: using biosentinels to monitor effects of wetland restoration for the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project.** U.S. Geological Survey Report prepared for the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and Resources Legacy Fund, 227p.
http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4908

IN THE NEWS

Tracking Pink-footed Shearwaters (University of Washington COASST)
The UW Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team has a blogpost profiling Josh Adams' pink-footed shearwater satellite tracking research.
http://blogs.uw.edu/coasst/2013/05/21/tracking-pink-footed-shearwaters/