



EVENTS

September 12, 2013 (webinar)
 WERC research partner **Alex Syphard** will deliver the webinar “A Tale of Two Fires”, featuring her land use planning research on the **USGS Southern California Wildfire Risk Scenario** project.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=164>

October 10, 2013 (Sacramento, CA)
Phil van Mantgem has been invited as a panelist on climate change and forest conservation planning at the Working for Conservation Conference “Active Engagement in Forest and Woodland Sustainability” hosted by UCANR.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=163>

October 20, 2013 (Los Angeles, CA)
Adam Backlin and other WERC herpetologists will be speaking with kids and parents at the 5th annual **Reptile and Amphibian Appreciation Day (RAAD)** hosted by the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=165>

IN THE NEWS

Island Hopping for Iguanas (U-T San Diego)
 Reporter Deborah Sullivan Brennan interviews **Robert Fisher** about his summer research expedition to Fiji, studying the endangered native *Brachylophus* iguanas.
<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2013/aug/30/environment-iguana-fiji-usgs-san-diego-zoo/>

On California’s Beaches, Mallard Ducks Have Learned to Surf for Food (USGS Sound Waves)
 The USGS ocean science newsletter mentions **Kevin Lafferty**’s duck observations
<http://soundwaves.usgs.gov/2013/08/research3.html>

How to Live with Fires in Southern California

The USGS Western Ecological Research Center has debuted a new documentary short film titled “Living with Fire” — to introduce the research goals of the **USGS Southern California Wildfire Risk Scenario Project** and to jumpstart conversations about wildfire science in southern California. Directed by USGS filmmaker Stephen Wessells and featuring Steve Schwarzbach, Jon Keeley, Tess Brennan, Carlton Rochester and other WERC researchers, the film explores the diverse factors driving wildfire risk in communities like San Diego and the Santa Monica Mountains, including surprising findings about the roles of housing density, prescribed fires, vegetation clearing, and human ignitions. Search for “Living with Fire” on YouTube, or click on the following links to watch and download this 11-minute film.

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

<http://gallery.usgs.gov/videos/620>

http://www.usgs.gov/blogs/features/usgs_top_story/how-to-live-with-wildfires-in-southern-california/

NEW JOURNAL ARTICLES

van Riper III, C, JJ Fontaine, **JW van Wagtendonk**. 2013. **Great grey owls (*Strix nebulosa*) in Yosemite National Park: on the importance of food, forest structure, and human disturbance.** *Natural Areas Journal* 33(3): 286-295.
 doi: 10.3375/043.033.0307
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4941>

McAllister, CT, DW Duszynski, **RN Fisher**. 2013. **New host and distributional records for *Cryptosporidium* sp. (Apicomplexa: Cryptosporidiidae) from lizards (Sauria: Gekkonidae, Scincidae) from the Cook Islands and Vanuatu, South Pacific.** *Comparative Parasitology* 80(2): 297-300. doi: 10.1654/4646.1
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4933>

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NEW JOURNAL ARTICLES (CONT'D)

Hughes, BB, R Eby, E Van Dyke, **MT Tinker**, CI Marks, KS Johnson, K Wasson. 2013. **Recovery of a top predator mediates negative eutrophic effects on seagrass.** *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1302805110 <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4940>

NEW CORRESPONDENCE

Wood, KR, DA Burney, A Allison, **R Fisher**. 2013. ***Emoia impar* (Squamata, Scincidae): not extinct in the Hawaiian Islands.** *Oryx* 47(3): 328-328. doi: 10.1017/S0030605313000616 <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4953>

Lafferty, KD, CL Wood. 2013. **It's a myth that protection against disease is a strong and general service of biodiversity conservation: Response to Ostfeld and Keesing.** *Trends in Ecology & Evolution* 28(9): 503-504. doi: 10.1016/j.tree.2013.06.012 <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4942>

NEW PUBLICATION BRIEFS

Certain housing development scenarios result in higher wildfire hazard risk
Land use planning — avoiding exposure to wildfire hazard risks through the informed placement of new residential structures — represents a shift in traditional thinking. For land use planning to be effective, however, it needs to be based on solid understanding of where and how to locate and arrange new homes. To test whether different development scenarios would take on different wildfire damage risks, **Alex Syphard**, **Jon Keeley** and colleagues simulated future housing development for San Diego County, and published the results in *PLOS ONE*. <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4939>

NEW WERC RESEARCH PROFILES

Marine Ecology

In service to state, federal and international institutions, WERC conducts a suite of marine and coastal ecology projects to provide critical data and scientific tools for ocean resource management and species conservation. Learn about WERC research projects and capabilities in seabird migrations, ocean energy planning, coastal processes, endangered species, kelp ecosystems and island restoration for BOEM, USFWS and other partners. <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4944>

Water Traffic and San Francisco Bay Birds

San Francisco Bay is one of the most dynamic and growing waterfronts in the U.S., accommodating shipping ports, recreational and commercial boaters, and water transit year-round. Yet little is known about how water traffic disturbance may affect habitat use and foraging ecology of rafting waterbirds. **John Takekawa**, **Susan De La Cruz** and colleagues are working with local and state institutions to tackle this question. <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4943>

Yosemite's Rim Fire in the News

Media coverage of Yosemite's Rim Fire spurred many questions on fire science in the Sierra Nevada, and WERC scientists Jan van Wagtenonk, Matt Brooks and Jon Keeley were among those consulted in the media coverage:

<http://thedianerehmsow.org/shows/2013-08-27/battling-wildfires-west>
<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn24110-yosemite-rim-fire-is-taste-of-things-to-come.html>
<http://www.livescience.com/39192-yosemite-fire-risk-sequoias.html>
<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/2013/0827/Officials-discount-risk-to-drinking-water-from-Rim-Fire-near-Yosemite-so-far>

IN THE NEWS (CONT'D)



Sea Otter Return Boosts Ailing Seagrass in California (BBC News)

A study on the decline and recovery of seagrass beds in California's Elkhorn Slough found that recolonization of the estuary by sea otters was a crucial factor in the seagrass comeback. **Tim Tinker** is a coauthor on this collaborative study. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-23814524>
http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2013-08/uoc--sop082113.php

Emerging Avian Influenza Viruses Highlight the Importance of Wild Bird Surveillance (USGS GeoHealth)

The USGS environmental health science newsletter mentions **Nichola Hill** and **John Takekawa's** findings on the roles of migrating and resident mallards in low-pathogenic avian influenza gene pools. http://health.usgs.gov/geohealth/v10_n01.html

OUTREACH UPDATES



Sacramento State University Unveils Fall 2013 Ecology Lecture Series

Once again, WERC is teaming up with CSU Sacramento faculty partners to produce the Ecology-Geology Colloquium Series for the student community. Lectures will take place at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays. Scheduled topics include WERC research on avian influenza, climate change, and pesticide accumulation in frogs. <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/outreach.aspx?RecordID=194>