



Courtesy of Iatiana Gettelman

Greater Sage-Grouse Space-Use Models from WERC Study Informs Surface Use Designations

A new study published in *The Journal of Wildlife Management* with [Pete Coates](#), [Mike Casazza](#), [Erik Blomberg](#), [Julie Yee](#) and [Brian Halstead](#) provides guidance on the assignment of surface use (SU) designations of no-activity around breeding areas of greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*). The team determined that nearly 90% of volume of utilization distribution (vUD) across seasons for greater sage-grouse were contained within approximately 5-km radius of each lek. A WERC publication brief for this Bi-State area study is available: <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4975>

NEW JOURNAL ARTICLES

[van Mantgem, P](#), [MA Madej](#), J Seney, J Deshais. 2013. **Estimating ecosystem carbon stocks at Redwood National and State Parks.** *Park Science* 30(1): 1,20–26. <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4964>

[Longshore, K](#), [C Lowrey](#), DB Thompson. 2013. **Detecting short-term responses to weekend recreation activity: Desert bighorn sheep avoidance of hiking trails.** *Wildlife Society Bulletin*. doi: 10.1002/wsb.349 <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4973>

[Coates, PS](#), [ML Casazza](#), [EJ Blomberg](#), SC Gardner, SP Espinosa, [JL Yee](#), L Wiechman, [BJ Halstead](#). 2013. **Evaluating greater sage-grouse seasonal space use relative to leks: implications for surface use designations in sagebrush ecosystems.** *The Journal of Wildlife Management* 77(8): 1598-1609. doi: 10.1002/jwmg.618 <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4972>

AWARDS

Pathways student [Kevin Buffington](#) has been awarded a research fellowship with the [DOI Northwest Climate Science Center](#). Buffington has been an integral part of coastal climate change studies led by [John Takekawa](#) and [Karen Thorne](#), including the sea level rise modeling and forecast of [San Francisco Bay wetlands](#).

EVENTS

October 20, 2013 (Los Angeles, CA)
[Adam Backlin](#) and colleagues met with kids and parents at the 5th annual **Reptile and Amphibian Appreciation Day** at the L.A. County Natural History Museum. <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=165>

November 12, 2013 (Sacramento, CA)
The last WERC-CAWSC-USFWS-CSUS public lecture was “Connecting Ecological Knowledge with Cultural Context” <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=168>

November 14, 2013 (webinar)
[Nate Stephenson](#) delivered a talk for **National Park Service** staff on climate change and America’s national parks. <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=167>

December 8, 2013 (Vallejo, CA)
[Isa Woo](#) and colleagues will host an open house at the WERC San Francisco Bay Estuary Field Station as part of a **Nerds for Nature** networking/hacking event. <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=169>

IN THE NEWS

Department of Interior NEWSWAVE
The Summer/Fall issue of the DOI coastal science newsletter features WERC studies on sea level rise and salt pond restoration. <http://www.doi.gov/pmb/ocean/news/Newswave/index.cfm>

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NEW JOURNAL ARTICLES (CONT'D)

Barry, SJ, **GM Fellers**. 2013. **History and status of the California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) in the Sierra Nevada, California, USA.** *Herpetological Conservation and Biology* 8(2): 456-502.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4974>

NEW BOOK CHAPTERS

Keeley, JE, AD Syphard, CJ Fotheringham. **The 2003 and 2007 wildfires in southern California.** In Boulter, S, J Palutikof, DJ Karoly, D Guitart (eds.) 2013. *Natural Disasters and Adaptation to Climate Change*. Cambridge University Press. 304p.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4967>

PUBLISHED THESIS FROM WERC RESEARCHERS

Brand, LA, MD Dixon, T Fetz, JC Stromberg, S Stewart, G Garber, DC Goodrich, DS Brookshire, CD Broadbent, K Benedict. 2013. **Projecting avian responses to landscape management along the Middle Rio Grande, New Mexico.** *The Southwestern Naturalist* 58(2): 150-162. doi: 10.1894/0038-4909-58.2.150
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4976>

NEW WERC PUBLICATION BRIEFS

San Diego Wildfires of 2003 and 2007 Offer Lessons

The 2003 and the 2007 wildfires in San Diego County were remarkably similar in their causes, impacts and the human responses they elicited. Particularly alarming is the observation that these fire events are not new to the region, as large fire events have occurred historically. A scientific review of these events by **Jon Keeley**, Alex Syphard and C.J. Fotheringham is presented in Chapter 5 of *Natural Disasters and Adaptation to Climate Change*, by Cambridge University Press.
<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=4971>

IN THE NEWS (CONT'D)

Can We Save Mojave Desert Tortoises by Moving Them Out of Harm's Way? (*High Country News*)

Reporter Emily Green profiles the research career of **Kristin Berry** and discusses her contributions to the field of Mojave Desert ecology and desert tortoise biology. **Steven Schwarzbach** is also quoted in the article.
<https://www.hcn.org/issues/45.13/can-we-save-mojave-desert-tortoises-by-moving-them-out-of-harms-way>

Can Sea Otters Make a Comeback in the San Francisco Bay? (*KQED*)

Naturalist Sharol Nelson-Embry interviews **Tim Tinker** about the new Elkhorn Slough sea otter project, and how the study can shed light on future sea otter expansions into other California estuaries, including San Francisco Bay.
<http://blogs.kqed.org/science/2013/09/27/can-sea-otters-make-a-comeback-in-the-san-francisco-bay/>

Where Have All the Otters Gone? (*UC Santa Cruz NewsCenter*)

Reporter Lily Dayton profiles the inter-agency research conducted by **Tim Tinker** and colleagues on sea otters along the California coast. The partnership includes UCSC, Monterey Bay Aquarium and California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
<http://news.ucsc.edu/2013/10/rev-fall-13-otters.html>



Invasion of the Brain Snatchers

The Canadian television program *The Nature of Things*, hosted by renowned geneticist and science communicator David Suzuki, featured **Kevin Lafferty** as part of its Halloween special on parasite ecology. The segment was originally filmed in 2012, when producers visited WERC's Santa Barbara field sites to learn about Lafferty's research on how parasitic flatworms can influence killifish behavior and the wetland food web.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3SzH_7QjIA#t=520
<http://www.cbc.ca/natureofthings/episodes/invasion-of-the-body-snatchers>



Sequoia: Nowhere to Go

Shared Planet, a radio program produced by BBC4 on humans and the environment, featured giant sequoias as its November 12th episode. Host Monty Don interviews **Nate Stephenson** about his research on climate change in California's Sierra Nevada, and the long-term forecasts to giant sequoia. Don also asked Stephenson about the implications of climate change for conservation planning and protected areas management. The segment begins at the 11:10 mark.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03h30g8>